



Bands do cartoon craze

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Looking for lake monsters

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Congress in session to map out the year



President Hu Jintao (L) shakes hands with Premier Wen Jiabao during the opening of the First Session of the 11th National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Wednesday. Wen delivered his annual government work report to the lawmakers.

Asia News Photo Page 5

Wearing words, Spanish style

Twin brothers Inaki and Aitor Monoz created their fashion design company Ailanto in Barcelona in 1992. The designers, born in Bilbao in 1968, moved to Barcelona where they graduated from the University of Barcelona's fine arts program.

Photo provided by Beijing
Institute Cervantes

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Gov won't waver in family planning policy

The country will not waver in its family planning policy anytime soon, Zhang Weiqing, the top official in charge of family planning, said when refuting rumors that the decades-old policy could be scrapped.

"The policy won't change at the current stage," said Zhang, a member of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference,

the top political advisory body.

He said the country has ushered in a babyboom that will persist for a decade, as babyboomers born in the 1970s and early 1980s reach childbearing age.

"Changes to the family planning policy now could lead to a population spike, putting higher pressure on China's development," Zhang said.

Under the current policy, the

government has mapped out preferential policies in favor of one-child families and offers cash rewards.

The "one-child" policy has been in effect for more than three decades and has prevented an estimated 400 million births. It limits most urban couples to one child and rural couples to two.

Many Chinese cities levy hefty fines on couples who vio-

late the rule, including a growing number of celebrities who will face heavier fines than others.

Couples can be fined up to 10 times the local per capita income, though actual fines are often lower. In Beijing, the per capita annual income for urban residents was 21,989 yuan in 2007. Sources said current fines hover around 100,000 yuan.

(Xinhua)

Spielberg's exit no effect on Olympics

By Han Manman

Hollywood director Steven Spielberg's decision to withdraw from the Beijing Olympic Games will not affect the opening ceremony of the sports gala, Zhang Yimou, chief director of the opening and closing ceremonies for the Games, said Monday. Zhang said he was confident of a successful opening ceremony.

"The mass rehearsals for the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games involve more than 10,000 people and are going well," Zhang said before attending the First Session of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), which started Monday in the capital.

"All the female actresses are beautiful," Zhang said.

He said he regretted Hollywood director Steven Spielberg's decision to withdraw as artistic advisor.

Spielberg was appointed artistic advisor by the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympics in April 2006, and became involved with the opening and closing ceremonies of the event with Zhang and Ric Rirch, the Australian director behind ceremonies at the Sydney Games in 2000. Spielberg announced his decision in mid-February, citing concerns over the crisis in Darfur, which he linked to the Chinese government.

The theme song for this year's Olympics will be unveiled 100 days before the opening ceremony, Jiang Xiaoyu, executive vice president of Beijing Olympic Games Organizing Committee (BOGOC), said Tuesday.

He said the fourth and the last campaign to collect songs worldwide for the Games launched by BOGOC will end on March 10.

"BOGOC will invite experts to evaluate the songs and help select a theme song," Jiang said.

The three-and-a-half-hour opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics to be held August 8 will include four parts: the opening addresses, performances, entrance of athletes and lighting of the main flame. The performances are planned to last an hour and a half.

Retired wives lead the way



The first "Show the way" team consisting of wives of retired ambassadors officially established Tuesday in Jianguomen Street. The team will take to the street and help lost expats starting this July.

CFP Photo

Shandong to build Confucian city

By Han Manman

The government is investing billions of yuan to construct a cultural symbolic city in Shandong Province, home of the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius, as part of its efforts to revive traditional culture.

The Chinese Cultural Symbolic City, touted as the first of its kind in the country, has gained attention from President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao. It has an estimated investment of at least 30 billion yuan, Shandong Governor Jiang Daming said at a news conference last Saturday in Beijing.

The "symbolic city" will be built in the Jiulong Mountain range between the two cities of Qufu and Zoucheng, ancestral homes of ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius and Mencius, Jiang said.

The construction project

includes refurbishing the ancestral homes of the two ancient philosophers and constructing new buildings in the Jiulong Mountain range.

"It will be a masterpiece of Chinese history and civilization, with a rich cultural tradition to benefit generations to come," he said.

"The construction of the Symbolic City is not only a project of Shandong and China, but a Chinese gift to the whole world," Xu Jialu, vice-chairman of the standing committee of the National People's Congress and director-general of the expert advisory committee of the project said.

"The city will exhibit and commemorate long-honored Chinese values, such as refining personal morality, cherishing peace and harmony and filial piety. Ideally, it shall be the spiritual home for the nation."

Xu said all design plans will

be reviewed by a consultation panel made up by some 30 top artists, sinologists and architects in China.

The project, initiated by 69 academicians in the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering in 2001, was approved by the National Development and Reform Commission in October 2007. The construction work is expected to start before 2010.

The project planning and construction commission, chaired by top Shandong officials, will solicit ideas and designs from the public from this week till September. Details on the solicitation are available on the city's Web site ccsc.gov.cn.

There will be a top prize of 2 million yuan, followed by three first prizes of 1 million yuan each, and six second and nine third place prizes.

Healthy accessories headed for Beijingers' kitchens

By Wan Ran

After issuing smaller salt spoons and rules for a healthy waistline, the local government is investing 15 million yuan in a limited run of oil pots to control the amount of cooking oil use.

Researchers found that a healthy adult should assimilate less than 25 grams of oil per day and less than 6 grams of salt. However, eating habits of Beijingers often include far more. Excess salt and oil intake is known to cause chronic diseases such as heart disease, hypertension and diabetes.

Obesity is the most important dangerous element triggering chronic diseases. According to statistics, Beijing tops the country in overweight individuals.

At the beginning of last year, to prevent obesity, the government provided 100 thousand tape measurers to residents so they could monitor their waistlines. They also provided 50 thousand salt spoons with a 2 gram capacity last April to curb salt intake.

Oil pots will be available at the end of the month. The pot's maximum capacity is 525 grams, which is the proper amount of oil for one week in one family.

Healthy Olympics, Healthy Beijing was held last year to educate Beijingers in their eating habits. The measuring tapes and salt spoons were distributed then. Oil pots will be available from the end of this month.

Brief news

Olympic lottery coming

The government will issue an Olympic-themed lottery for trial sales in four provinces later this month, with ticket prices set at 5 to 10 yuan.

There will be five versions of the new lottery with different themes. The lottery will be available in Hebei, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shandong provinces first, with Beijing to follow later. Detailed information on lottery sales will be released at the end of March.

World's most toilets

Beijing, with more than 5,000 public toilets built and renovated, now has more toilets than any other metropolis in the world.

Lu Haijun, director of the Beijing Municipal Administration Commission, said that with 5,174 public toilets, Beijing has already outpaced New York, London and Tokyo in the number of public toilets.

Free admission to public museums

Chinese culture authorities have promised to open 500 public museums and memorial halls to visitors for free this year in its drive to give tax payers better access to culture.

10m jobs headed for cities

The government is expected to create another 10 million jobs this year to hold urban unemployment down around the 4.5 percent mark, Premier Wen Jiabao said Wednesday. The urban unemployment rate during the past five years stayed below 4.3 percent, according to government figures.

(By Han Manman)

Gunshots excluded from Chengdu executions

By Han Manman

The traditional firing squad executions for death row inmates will be replaced with lethal injection in Chengdu, a Chengdu Intermediate People's Court official announced last Saturday.

According to the court's release, the injection procedure will take two minutes. Jiang Xingchang, vice-president of the Supreme People's Court (SPC), said lethal injection is considered "more humane."

Chengdu's move is seen as a break from traditional capital pun-

ishment policies. The first trial lethal injections were held in 1997.

"It is considered more humane and will eventually be used by all intermediate people's courts," Jiang said.

Half the country's 404 intermediate people's courts – which carry out most of the executions – use lethal injections now, he said.

Jiang did not provide a timetable for when firing squads would be completely done away with, but said the switch to lethal injection has been received favorably by "all

quarters of society, including death row inmates and their families."

SPC will release the toxins used in the injection to local courts under strict supervision, he said. Currently, court officials must come to Beijing to receive the toxins.

"The SPC will help equip intermediate courts with all required facilities and train more professionals, particularly in the central and western regions," Jiang said.

Lethal injection was authorized experimentally in 1997, and has since been used in many cities.

Though the country retains capital punishment, it is applied only to "an extremely small number" of serious offenders, Chief Justice Xiao Yang said in a previous interview.

Abolishing capital punishment or strictly limiting the use of the death penalty is a global trend, and "China is working toward that direction," Xiao said.

"We cannot talk about abolishing or controlling the use of death sentences in the abstract without considering ground realities and social security conditions," Xiao said.

Police bust fraudulent matchmaker

By Zhang Dongya

Yiguanglian, a marriage consultancy in Changchun, Jilin Province, was shut down last week when police captured Qiao Xunxian, the manager, who was illegally arranging marriages between Chinese and foreign nationals.

The company's 108 clients spent as much as 3 million yuan seeking spouses. At least 94 women, the youngest 20 years old and the oldest 54, were victimized by the company. Most were rural residents or laid-off workers.

Qiao hatched her business plan after one of her friends married and moved overseas via a Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. The company had branches in Harbin, Shenyang and other cities. Qiao took the company's name and showed clients photos and videos of successful marriages arranged by the Guangzhou company.

Her ads claimed to help old or divorced women to seek out a "Mr. Right" overseas. She promised to find clients high-ranking foreigners, specifically US or UK doctors and lawyers, and help them to emigrate. Members were required to pay 10,000 to 25,000 yuan up front, and another 25,000 yuan to meet with a foreigner.

The company hired 30 "interpreters." Qiao asked the interpreters to find what she termed "target men": those who could not find a mate in their own country, had divorced many times, were laid off or who frequented matchmaker Web sites.

Some foreigners came to China to meet with her clients under the condition it would not cost them anything. Most disappeared after several days.

Police encouraged victimized clients to come forward. As of press time, only five or six women have reported their cases to the police.

With the increase in marriages between Chinese and foreign nationals, cases of deception both home and abroad are being reported frequently.

According to regulations for marriage with foreigners issued in 1994, no individual or unit is allowed to engage in matchmaking activities with foreign nationals.

College grads clamor for jobs



As many as 4,000 college girls packed a job fair in Beijing, Tuesday.

CFP Photo

Volunteer saves boy from sale by father

By Jackie Zhang

Last Saturday, Liu Zun watched as police descended on his father at a bus station in De'an, Jiangxi Province. The frightened boy cried "Papa! Papa!" as police took his father away. Liu Zun now lives with his father's uncle.

Liu Damao, the father, had intended to sell the two-year-old boy to Zaizai, a volunteer in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, who he believed was a buyer that would give his son a better life.

Zaizai, a volunteer of five years, was the first person who sighted Liu Damao attempting to sell his son. During the last five years, he has caught thieves and helped police bring down network marketing groups and rescue children who had been put to work on the streets as slaves.

Last November, Zaizai heard via online contacts that Liu Damao was planning to sell his son. Zaizai contacted Liu and pretended to be an interested buyer. When he arrived in De'an, he informed local police about the time and place of the sale.

"None of us knew the man was the boy's father at that time,"

Zaizai said. "We thought he had kidnapped the boy somewhere."

During the interrogation, the truth came out. When Liu Damao was a boy, he and his father were deserted by his mother. He felt upset and weak ever since, and believed people looked down on him.

When Liu grew up, married and had Liu Zun, he was a delinquent father. He played online games every day and beat his wife. His wife left the two of them at the end of last year. Liu felt disappointed, and his life took a sharp downturn.

"I want my son to grow up in a comfortable and rich family. I also want to get some money to change my own life," Liu told the *Guangzhou Daily* on Monday.

When Zaizai was discharged from the military in 2003, he joined a volunteer anti-thief group to help identify and rescue children being sold by slave traders.

Zaizai studied martial arts in Shaolin Temple and knows basic self defense. Liu's case is still under investigation, and Zaizai is currently preparing for another rescue in Zhejiang Province.

Hi, you wanna play shadow?



The shadow game was never meant to cause a stir.

Photo provided by Morning

By Jackie Zhang

Last Saturday, a group of young people gathered on Chunxi Lu, Chengdu, Sichuan Province, to follow and imitate strangers.

"It was an interesting game at first. I never guessed it would be covered by the media and argued about online," Still3, the organizer, wrote in his blog Tuesday.

Early February, Still3 posted a notice on douban.com that said he wanted to start a stranger-following activity. According to the post, members taking part in the event would randomly choose a stranger on the street and walk behind the person, trying to keep the same pace and imitating the person's every movement. If the person discovers them, they have to run away or find a new target.

AP test center comes to Beijing

By Li Fenghua

The College Board of America has established its first AP test center at Siwa International School in Beijing. Starting this year, students in Beijing can sit the AP test without flying to Hong Kong.

"The first exam papers will be distributed to Beijing in late April. The closing date for test registration is March 28. The center will charge US \$84 for each course," Pei Chao, president of Siwa International School, said.

"An extra fee will be charged if one wants to sign up for the test after the closing date, but before April 11," Pei said. "After the test, the exam papers will be air mailed to the US."

There are seven test centers in the mainland including Siwa International School. The other test centers are located in major cities like Shanghai and Chengdu.

The test will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will be from May 5 to 9, and the second will be from May 12 to 16. Examinees can receive test results by late June, Pei said.

AP involves 22 programs and 37 courses. More than 3,600 universities in over 40 countries recognize the AP test, including top universities such as Harvard, Yale and Cambridge. Chinese universities including Beijing, Tsinghua and two other universities recognize AP credits.

The AP test uses a 5-point system, and most universities accept any score higher than 3.

"The AP test is held every year in more than 80 countries around the world. There are over 1.4 million students who sat the test last year," Pei said.

Test tube celebrates life at twenty

Test-tube baby's mom

By Li Fenghua

Entering medical science

"When I graduated from high school in 1937, I wanted to go to the National Central University to study aeronautical engineering. I wanted to be a pilot then. My dream was shattered when the War of Resistance against Japan broke out. The university moved to the interior of our country, so I chose St John's University to learn medical science," Zhang Lizhu said.

In 1946, when the war was over, Zhang went to San Francisco and found a job in a New York hospital.

"During that time, I published a paper about cervical cancer. A doctor from Marie Curie Hospital in London happened to see the paper, and she invited me to go to London to work in 1949.

Baby tumors

In 1951, when the war to resist US Aggression and Aid Korea broke out, public opinion in England toward China was very unfriendly. "I was very afraid of the possibility of being sent to a concentration camp one day, so I hurried to buy a ticket to return to China."

Beijing University Third Hospital was set up in 1958 and planned to focus on gynecological tumors. "But, after working with the patients, I found that many of them were very young and had no tumors. In the early 60s, most of them had no menstruation period. Their diseases were caused by the environment which, in turn, caused brain disease that afflicted the ovary but did not originate there," Zhang said.

Research setbacks

In 1964, answering the call of Mao Zedong, Zhang went to the medical station in Tongzhou County. There she delivered the offspring of two female pigs and received praise from the villagers although colleagues from the hospital considered it a shameful act.

"I had never done that before and I had no idea what a pig's womb was like, but I made it," Zhang said.

"When I went back to the Third Hospital in 1965, I found negative big character posters of me everywhere. I was labeled, a 'bourgeois academic authority'.

No one was treated worse than I was in the department of gynecology and obstetrics. It was really hard at that time," Zhang said.

A very tough surgery procedure was appointed to her in 1969. Zhang was very nervous since the patient had low blood pressure, but she performed the operation against other doctors' opinions. "I thought I would have to throw myself off a cliff if the woman died." But after a night's worry, a miracle happened and the patient turned out to be normal. Zhang was saved.

Things began to change from then on. In 1972, Zhang worked as the simultaneous translator for the experts from South Africa delivering lectures to the Chinese doctors. The same year, Nixon came to China to visit her when she was doing a surgical operation of acupuncture anesthesia. In 1982, Zhang was reinstated as the director of the department of gynecology and obstetrics of Beijing University Third Hospital.

The operation

Public opinion was against her since the test-tube baby operation seemed to be against

By Zhang Dongya

China's first test tube baby Zheng Mengzhu celebrated her 20th birthday with other test-tube babies in the Beijing University Third Hospital last week.

Twelve test tube babies all over the country got together and sang songs to express their appreciation to all the doctors and nurses of the hospital.

Professor Zhang Lizhu, referred to as the mother of the Chinese test tube baby, attended the 20th anniversary celebration conference of the successful application for human assisted reproduction technology. Zheng made a trip to the laboratory of the Health Science Center of Beijing University where she was "created," and had a happy meeting with her "granny," Zhang Lizhu.

Zheng, born on March 10, 1988, was named Mengzhu as Meng indicates that she was the very first while

Zhu was picked as a tribute to Zhang Lizhu. Now the baby has grown up to be a healthy, pretty girl and is an English major at a college in Xi'an.

The research team started work in December 1984 and took three years to produce a child.

Test tube baby technology in China has been highly developed dramatically in the past two decades, Zhang Lizhu said. According to her speech, China had 10,000 test tube babies up to 2004, and 130 productive centers have been built in the country.



China's first test tube baby Zheng Mengzhu (middle), celebrated her 20th birthday with some other test-tube babies last week in Beijing.
Photo by Lucky Chen



Zhang Lizhu with the first test-tube baby.
Photo provided by Zhang Lizhu

the Family Control Policy of China. "But I was a doctor. I had to consider the patients. They have the right to be pregnant and gave birth to a baby. If the government does not consider the people's needs, then no country can really exist," Zhang said.

"At that time I found a lot of patients with blockage in their Fallopian tubes which caused sterility. There had been successful cases of test-tube babies abroad, but it is different with our country. I had to try a new way to do the surgery instead of using a peritoneoscope. Twelve cases failed before the test-tube baby method turned out to be successful."

"About 6.2 percent of the test-tube procedures succeeded at that time, but now it has risen to 34 percent to match international advanced levels," Zhang said.

First test-tube toddler like everybody else

By Zhang Dongya

1. Q: Do you still remember when you first learned that you were a test tube baby? Was it your mom who told you first?

A: I really cannot remember when I learned, since I was too young at that time. I just remember there were always people gossiping about it, but I did not ask my mom about it. I kept the burden inside.

2. Q: What did you feel when you learned?

A: I felt uncomfortable and strong in the beginning. However, I found myself in a good state of mind and I just ignored the gossip mongers afterwards.

3. Q: Do your friends, classmates, and teachers know you are a test tube baby? How do they treat you? Anyone unfriendly?

A: Yes, they all know because it was reported at my birth. Most of them are nice to me. There were a few who were unfriendly, but they seldom acted that way when they became adults. They were amazed that I was just like everybody else!

4. Q: As a test tube baby, how do you feel about this phenomenon?

A: I think it is saving grace for those parents who want to have a baby but cannot for whatever reason. My parents are very happy to have me.

5. Q: Do you feel any different from normally-delivered babies? How is your health?

A: I feel just like a normal person, despite my high-tech beginning. And I am fine, health-wise.

6. Q: How did you get along with Professor Zhang Lizhu?

A: I visit her every time I go to Beijing. We call the hospital "home," the doctors and nurses "mother" and "sister," and I always call Professor Zhang, "granny." It's just like a big family.

7. Q: Can you describe the test tube baby lab you visited this time?

A: When I entered the lab in a nurse's uniform, I found the room was too small at first sight, but then I saw many rooms inside with plenty of tubes, dishes and other equipment. I viewed the sperm under a microscope and found it magic to be able to create life in such a lab. I was also moved when I thought of how hard it is for the scientists to give birth to life through repeated experiments. As the first test tube baby, I feel lucky.

8. Q: I know you are majoring in English at Xijing University in Xi'an. How do you like English and what do you want to do after graduation?

A: I like English very much. As for my future, I think I'd like to keep that secret to myself.

Congress readies for the road ahead

The ongoing sessions of China's National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) are attracting world attention. The Beijing Olympics, soaring inflation and a plan to streamline the central government are all high on the agenda.

Streamlining ministries

With so many big issues dominating this year's legislative season, the test to run a super ministry system is a focal point.

The plan is to combine functions of small departments in larger ones in the State Council reform, which aims to avoid "overlapping responsibilities" and "powers not being matched by responsibilities," Premier Wen Jiabao said in his government work report on Wednesday.

The plan will divide responsibilities among departments that exercise macroeconomic regulation, adjust and improve bodies in charge of industrial management, improve departments responsible for public administration and public services.

It clearly defines the responsibilities and powers of each department, clarifies the relationship of responsibilities among departments and improves the mechanism for interdepartmental coordination and cooperation, Wen said.

Besides the plan, the government will try other measures to reform its administrative system.

8-percent GDP growth

The premier said this year China will target an eight-percent GDP growth on the basis of energy conservation and emission reduction.

"On the basis of improving the economic structure, productivity, energy efficiency and environmental protection, the GDP should grow by about eight percent," Wen said.

Different regions should not just seek faster growth or compete with each other to have the highest growth rate, Wen said. "We should promote both sound and fast economic and social development."

Referring to the year's CPI, Wen said China would keep structural price increases from turning into significant inflation, and the rise would be around 5 percent.

To curb domestic price hikes, Wen announced a series of measures, including expanding pro-



Members trying to take a group photo with Mao Xinyu (second from left), grandson of Mao Zedong. Celebrity members create another scene at this year's session. Photo by Bruce Wei

duction of grain, meat and other consumer goods.

Provincial governors and mayors will be held responsible for grain and non-staple food supplies, according to Premier Wen.

Experts said the CPI target was practical, and showed the government's determination in macro regulation.

Tight monetary policy

Addressing the 11th National People's Congress, Premier Wen said in his work report that the country is to follow a tight monetary policy to address the still-unsolved problem of excessive liquidity.

The government pledges to add another several hundred billion yuan in additional funds to boost agriculture, education, medicare and strengthen the nation's social safety network.

However, Wen said a prudent fiscal policy is still needed to promote structural adjustment and balanced development, and increased expenditures necessary to shore up weak links, improve people's lives and deepen reform.

A unique Games

This year also marks the year of Olympics. China will give the world a unique, well-run Olym-

pic Games, Wen said.

"We will prepare for and organize the Games well, strengthen cooperation with the international community and create an excellent environment," the Premier said.

The 2008 Olympics and Paralympics are of great importance in promoting China's economic and social development and increasing friendship and cooperation between the Chinese and peoples of other countries, he said.

"All sons and daughters of the Chinese nation are looking forward to them," he said.

(Agencies)

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Foreign investment allowed for railway construction

Foreign investment will be introduced in railway construction following the disastrous snows that left millions of passengers stranded midway in their journey home earlier this year, China's railway minister said Wednesday.

"The disaster exposed a lag-gard railway situation far behind the country's economic and social

development," Minister of Railways Liu Zhijun said during a group discussion with deputies from Jiangxi Province.

A total of 300 billion yuan (US \$42 billion) will be invested in China's railway construction this year, and foreign investment will be introduced to the sector "at a proper time," Liu said, declining

to give a detailed timeline.

Many railway projects, including parallels of the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway, may open for foreign investment, he said.

With an estimated investment of 160 billion yuan (US \$21 billion), the 1,318-kilometer Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway would be the largest, as well

as the most expensive, engineering project in the country upon its completion.

Liu said separate power generation units will be installed in more than 2,000 railway stations along trunk lines in 2008.

The country plans to lay 7,820 kilometers of rails this year.

(Agencies)

Call for a lower stamp duty



Expert economists say a drop in the stamp duty rate could help boost transactions.

Photo by An Xin

By Huang Daohen

The government may scale down its stamp duties according to a proposal submitted Monday at the ongoing session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The proposal drew attention from economists and observers and stirred again the debate over the tax system adjustment on shares.

An upgraded taxation system is crucial to enhancing investor confidence, the basis for long-term development of the stock market, the Central Committee of the China National Democratic Construction Association said in the proposal.

The proposal suggested that investors should be taxed based on how long they keep their equity holdings, and aim at adding a tax burden on speculators and encouraging long-term investment to stabilize market performance.

The debate over the tax-policy adjustment came at a time of growing stock-market volatility. Last May, the government tripled

its stamp duties on stock transactions to 0.3 percent, applicable to both buyers and sellers of mainland shares.

The surprise action to increase the stamp duty was meant to cool overheating, and it delivered some immediate results. The hike dented the key stock index, the Shanghai Composite Index by as much as 20 percent, which peaked above 6,000 late last year before falling back to 4,000.

Although the market recovered later, investors still complained that they were faced with uncertainties over trading costs.

Some investors hope that only one side – rather than both – is required to pay the stamp duty. They called for an apparent system to decide when to raise or slash trading costs, the *Beijing Youth Daily* reported.

Statistics indicate stamp duties collected on Chinese mainland equities transactions totaled about 201 billion yuan last year, 10 times over the level of the previous year.

Despite unconfirmed rumors that such a stamp duty cut proposal will be made by the Ministry of Finance after the congress, more than 90 percent of investors who went online support the idea, according to the report.

Expert:
Call for lower stamp rates

"The country should lower the stamp duty rate," He Qiang, a university professor in finance and economics, said. "The mission of high stamp duties has been accomplished. The index was down to 4,100 from the frenzied situation last year."

The economy will continue to develop and more foreign investors will join the country's stock markets after its accession to the World Trade Organization, said He, also a National People's Political Consultative Congress delegate.

Western countries usually impose a 0.1 percent stamp duty or do not levy it at all, he said.

"A drop in the stamp duty rate helps lower transaction costs and boost transactions,"

He said. "This would benefit the development of China's fledgling stock market."

Securities analysts said that a drop of 0.5 percent in the rate of stamp duty would lead to a 5 percent rise in the stock prices and a 40 percent rise in transactions.

Official:
Draft rule under research

China's securities regulator is examining the possible impact of a reduction in stamp duty on stock trading, Shang Fulin, chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

Shang said that CSRC is in discussions with other government departments on a stamp duty cut.

However, Ouyang Zehua, deputy director of the market supervision department at CSRC, said he has not received any information in this regard. "The adjustment of the stamp duty at present is a rather sensitive issue," he said.

"It must be approached cautiously, and needs much research and demonstration," he said.

China to be world's largest economy in 2025

By Huang Daohen

China may overtake the US by 2025 to become the world's largest economy. It is anticipated to reach 130 percent the size of the US by 2050, according to "The World in 2050: Beyond the BRICs," a reported released by Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP.

The global center of economic gravity is shifting to China, India and other large emerging economies, John Hawksworth, head of the firm, said.

Apart from China, he said the fastest growing economy could be Vietnam, with a potential growth rate of almost 10 percent per year.

NAB acquires 20 percent stake in trust firm

By Zhang Dongya

National Australia Bank (NAB) announced recently its purchase of 20 percent stake in China's Union Trust & Investment (UTI) was approved by the China Banking Regulatory Commission. It marks the first foreign investment in China's trust industry.

This investment is one of the 55 programs signed at the China International Fair for Investment and Trade last year, and makes the bank the third largest shareholder in UTI.

Volkswagen fosters youth environment awareness

By Han Manman

Volkswagen Group China (VGC) and the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) are promoting The Green Future Environmental Education Initiative, a program aimed to foster environmentalist spirit among youths and support a Green Olympics.

The program, which began on Monday, will invite former Olympic champions and experts to visit the seven Olympic cities in China to promote environment protection and Olympic knowledge.

Baidu to launch an instant messaging service

By Wan Ran

Baidu, a major Chinese search engine, said it plans to launch an instant messaging service, called Baidu Hi.

All elements of Baidu Hi including product design, research and testing will be handled independently by the company, which is in the process of recruiting additional personnel for developing the product, Baidu.com said in a statement.

Ancient temple, modern times

By Huang Daohen

The Shaolin Temple, known in the West as the birthplace of Chinese kung fu, has come under fire again as it may drive home a Hong Kong IPO in June, reported the local *Zhengzhou Daily*.

The government of Dengfeng in Henan Province plans to float shares in local tourism assets ranging from hotels to a cable-car service, many of which thrive on the Shaolin Temple's fame, the report said.

To that end, Dengfeng's government has set up the Songshan Shaolin Tourism Group and wants to debut in Hong Kong, the newspaper quoted tourism official Pei Songxian as saying, without giving details or a time-frame of the plan.

But the temple itself doesn't plan a listing in the short term for fear of besmirching its reputation. "The tourism group is set up by the government and it has nothing to do with us (Shaolin Temple)," a monk at the monastery director's office said.

"To become involved in such a highly risky business is against the spirit of Buddha," abbot Shi Yongxin was quoted as saying.

"And we have adequate money to support what we want to do," he said.

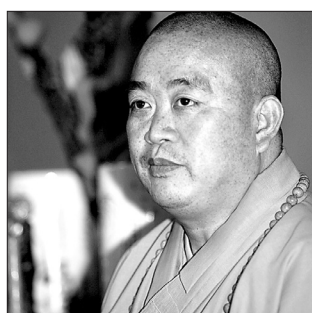
Shaolin Temple has frequently been in the spotlight and indeed it has embarked on a number of commercial ventures in past years, following some headline-grabbing events, such as a super-girl-style kung fu competition, a luxury sports car being awarded to the temple and the latest overseas branch in Australia.

The moves have sparked criticism nationwide from media reports to Internet online posts over the temple's excessive business involvement.



Shaolin Temple's business model has frequently been in the spotlight.

CFP Photos



Shi Yongxin

Abbot: Keep up with times

"I believe everything I have done in the past two decades is necessary and I have kept up with the trends of the times," Shi said during an interview with CCTV, expressing his philosophy of keeping up with the times in running the temple.

"For example, in the past, one only had to deal with a small neighborhood in order to

get something done. But now one has to deal with the whole world, which is closely connected through mass media, such as the Internet," the abbot said.

"As a result, we have to take the times and globalization into account, and try to keep up with them," he added.

Shi was admitted to the temple in 1981 when it was a little-known

ancient temple with dozens of monks. He began to serve as abbot in 1987 and ever since has carried out a series of reforms.

Shi claims commercialization is not a bad thing. "It is true that I am resorting to commercialization to promote Shaolin culture, but I believe that people who concentrate on hard work will understand me," he said.

Comment

Commercialism battling Buddhism

Shaolin is a reflection of the Chinese today – entrepreneurial enthusiasm. Getting involved in competitive games will consume too much time. I don't know how the monks will be able to study the scriptures amidst the commercialized environment.

– Yi Shan, secretary

Mocking the monks

Do not be so hard on the

monks. At least they are helping solve China's unemployment problems. It is better they pray than join job seekers. If people are willing to give them money, so be it.

– Monkey Business, netizen

Back to the future

Very interesting to see how Shaolin is finding its own way to the future.

– Jeffry Djuhandia, Germany

Don't brand Buddhism

Why does a place devoted to Buddhism need to keep up with the times? Fashions come and go and things change, but a temple or a church should be a place where things stay the same.

If this temple becomes a brand, it will meet the fate of most other brands and fade out after a while.

The temple needs to be run by someone who can think beyond

the next movie deal.

– Les, teacher

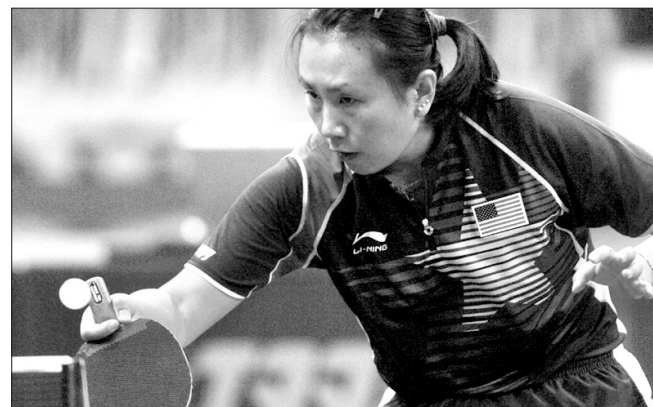
Shi supporter

I am a Shaolin martial artist under abbot Shi Yongxin. Shi is just trying to find a way to bring the culture to the attention of the world.

Why don't we show everyone what the Shaolin has known for centuries? I'm with Shi one hundred percent.

– Paul, expat

Putting the squeeze on switch-hitters



Gao Jun of the US returns a shot to North Korea's Kim Jong during the World Team Ping Pong Championships in Guangzhou last month. Gao slammed a controversial move to restrict Chinese-born players in table tennis.

By Huang Daohen

A proposal approved by the world ping pong ruling body last Friday said table tennis players over 21 are not allowed to switch national allegiance.

The proposal, initially raised by the Swiss Table Tennis Association and backed by the International Table Tennis Federation, plans to limit the number of registration-switching players.

According to the resolution, players over 21 years old will be banned from registering in second associations to play World Championships and World Cup events.

The new proposal, which will

become effective on September 1, was passed by a vote of 46 to 2, despite strong opposition from the Hong Kong and New Zealand associations.

"This showed me that all member associations know what's best for the development of ping pong," ITTF president Adham Sharara was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying.

"I'm surprised and happy. I thought it a half-half thing and never expected an absolute majority," he said.

In addition to the ban on switching countries after the age of 21, the rule demands a qualification period of seven years

for 18-21 year olds, five years for 15-18 year olds and three years for those under 15.

The flow of players moving to represent other nations has increased over past decades and China is the typical leader of such action. Past controversial figures include Koyama Chire and Tang Na, both former Chinese female ping pong players.

He Zhili is the former Chinese world ping pong champion who played under the Japanese name Koyama Chire, and Tang Na joined the South Korean nationality in 2000 because she found she had few opportunities on the star-studded Chinese team.

Comment

Beneficial rule

The sport (ping pong) can benefit more from limiting overseas players. It will help countries foster their own players instead of simply importing others.

As far as I know, all three board members from China – Cai Zhenhua, Yang Shu'an and I

voted in favor of the proposal.

– Yao Zhenxu, ping pong director of BOCOG

Hard for players

It's too hard on the overseas players. I don't think the proposal has been discussed enough.

In the globalizing world, most of these players are traveling from this country to another,

and they mainly earn money from national teams rather than clubs. The new rule means some of them could be jobless.

– Yue Kuok-leung, president to the Hong Kong Table Tennis Association

Ruling body worried

To be frank, the world of ping pong is being overrun by the Chi-

nese, and this worries the sport's ruling body and players from other countries.

This controversial rule is widely perceived as an attempt to stop the flow of Chinese players moving outside.

– Jianjie, sportswriter

Hassle, not help

The rule change would

hinder the development of the sport around the world, not help it. As athletes, they all have the desire to participate in the world event.

However, not all the excellent players get the chance, since there are limited quotas for each country.

– Jennifer, netizen

Italian comedian a master of the mask

By He Jianwei

At 77, Ferruccio Soleri, an Italian actor, still leaping and juggling in his roles, will perform *Arlecchino, Servant of Two Masters* at the National Grand Theater in Beijing from Friday to Sunday.

This play is a commedia dell'arte, which is a form of improvised comedy and performed by players wearing masks. Soleri has performed the play as many as 2,000 times.

The play is about a servant named Arlecchino and how he manages to become a servant to two masters. This causes him to have many mishaps from which he cleverly escapes.

Arlecchino, beginnings

Soleri first played the part of Arlecchino in 1960 in New York.

In his first show, he replaced an actor to play Arlecchino. "It was announced over the house speakers that the part was being filled by Ferruccio Soleri that evening. The theatre seated 2,000 people. "From behind the curtain, where we were all in position for the opening scene, we heard a loud chorus of two thousand voices signaling their disapproval. My arms went limp and I felt drained," he said.

The first act did not go too

badly. "In the second, you could feel the audience warming up with the lunch and pudding episode. I knew I had made it," he said.

A comedic first

There are four characters wearing masks during the show, including the servant Arlecchino, an innkeeper, Brighella, an old, rich, greedy Venetian merchant, Pantalone and a lawyer and physician, Doctor Lombardi.

Commedia dell'arte first hit the stage in Italy in the 16th and 17th centuries, and then later on spread to other parts of Europe. This complex form of drama relied on the histrionic abilities and verbal dexterity of the actors who enacted their scenes relying on a basic plot accompanied by a few instructions about how the comedy should be performed.

"Conventionalized gestures, phrases, exclamations and curses were an essential part of an actor's performance," Soleri said.

Extended comedic rifts called *lazzi* frequently interrupted the action, giving actors an opportunity to display their improvisational skills.

Commedia dell'arte: bright or dim future?

Becoming an actor of com-



Both the voice and movement are two important elements for commedia dell'arte.

Photo provided by the National Grand Theater

media dell'arte is not easy. Soleri spent two or three years to master the character of Arlecchino.

Both the voice and movement are two important elements for the actors. The players can make different

sounds in different intonations. "You must practice again and again. For example, you have to read a paper without stopping, without breathing and punctuation, until you no longer feel breathless," he said.

Because of the exaggerated

movements, the actor must be nimble, and sometimes needs acrobatic skills.

"Not many people like practicing continuously. It is easy to master the basic principles, but it's harder for people to become an excellent actor," he said.

Adding color to Chinese ballet



Emi Wada

Photo provided by Han Jun

By Han Manman

"If I am interested in the script, I can design the costumes for all the roles in the production and do the work very quickly," Oscar-winning costume designer Emi Wada said.

Wada is an internationally-acclaimed costume designer. Although 71 years old, she still remains active in the circle. This time, as a lover of traditional Chinese culture and favoring the script, she came to Beijing at the invitation of the National Ballet of China to design the costumes for the ballet version of *Peony Pavilion*, which has been called "the Chinese Romeo and Juliet."

However, at Tuesday's news conference, Wada did not willingly disclose anything about her design plans for the ballet before its global performance in May.

The first Japanese woman to win an Academy Award, Wada has also been called the "exclusive" costume designer for Chinese director Zhang Yimou. Her remarkable and colorful designs for Zhang Yimou's *Hero* and *House of Flying Daggers* presented her unique craftsmanship which stunned audiences around the world.

"Zhang entirely supported my ideas. I thought that most historical Chinese films were very conventional, so I wanted to add new color, material and silhouettes to the costume design so that audiences throughout the world would find interest in these

films," Wada said

Wada, who majored in painting, was quite confident about costume design when she finished her first assignment for theater about 40 years ago.

She recalled her experience with acclaimed director Akira Kurosawa for the film *Ran*, a Japanese adaptation of Shakespeare's *King Lear*, which brought her an Oscar at the 58th Academy Awards ceremony.

"In western people's eyes, all Japanese look the same. In *Ran*, there are three sons. In order to let the western audience know who is who, I had to identify each character with the costume design," she said.

For example, for the role Lady Kaede in *Ran*, "Her character is something like a snake, so I choose a big piece of shining yarn for her costume to reflect her acrimony. Before she is killed, I used the colors gold and black to replace the original design - gold and white - to show the gloom of death," she said.

The *Peony Pavilion* of the Tang Dynasty is regarded as the most romantic story in Chinese literature and is often compared to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. It depicts the saga of a love story between young scholar Liu Meng-mei and Du Liniang, the daughter of a high government official in the Southern Song Dynasty.

The ballet will make its first appearance at the Beijing Tianqiao Theater from May 2 to May 7.

Taekwondo Godfather delivers the goods

By He Jianwei

Dai Won Moon, regarded as Mexico's Godfather of Taekwondo, worked as a technical advisor for the "Good Luck Beijing" 2008 Taekwondo International Invitational Tournament held last week.

Moon, 65, a Korean Mexican, holds his eighth black belt. He played a significant role in promoting Taekwondo overseas, especially in Mexico.

When he was young, he fought with others on the street. When his parents discovered his injuries, they refused to let him learn Taekwondo. But Moon went against his parents' wishes and learned Taekwondo in secret.

After his adolescence, he honored his parent's wishes and studied abroad in the US. But he did not give up his dream of Taekwondo. When he studied pre-engineering at East Texas State University in 1963, he taught Taekwondo on the side. And he frequently participated in martial arts competitions.

Later he was asked to teach the art form in Mexico in 1968 when the Mexico Olympics was held, and he also was asked to come over and open a training hall. After a year, he decided to go to Mexico.

To introduce Mexican people to Taekwondo, he held an Open Championships of all kinds of martial arts, and gradually Taekwondo grew popular. Moon set up the Mexico Taekwondo Asso-



Dai Won Moon Photo by Yang Yue

ciation in 1975.

One fateful day between 1965 and 1966, one of Moon's friends told him that Chinese martial arts were great and had faster actions. He was eager to see how truly great they were. Fortunately, his friend had the telephone number of Bruce Lee.

Moon called Lee and their first meeting was at the movie star's house in Los Angeles. They talked about the techniques of Chinese martial arts and Taekwondo for several hours.

"One combatant would make a move, and the other would pick up on the disadvantages of that move. Each stuck to his own viewpoint," Moon said.

He visited Shaolin Temple last year. "The Chinese martial arts in Shaolin Temple are not about fighting. It is a kind of art form, which is beautiful, but the techniques don't work well when in actual battle," he said.

He believes there are three levels to martial arts. The basic level is the technique; the second is the art. "Chinese martial arts are a good example of this level," he said.

The highest level is Dao. "It is stupid for us to translate this word into English. Basically, it is a way to find happiness," he said.

**THIS PAGE HAS
BEEN LOST**

American ladies raise funds for women's organization

By Annie Wei

Last night, approximately 150 guests gathered at Block 8, a new popular nightlife spot, for a fund-raiser event for Half the Sky.

Half the Sky is an organization that provides care and nourishment for Chinese orphans throughout the country.

Jo Kent, 24, from the US, and six of her friends organized the event. Kent is currently a graduate student at Beijing University. Her friends, all women from the US, are doing research or volunteering at different NGOs in Beijing.

Since 2006, Kent has been throwing her annual International Women's Day Benefit. When asked about her motivation, Kent said when she was a Fullbright scholar last year in Beijing, she spent a lot of time researching women's legal developments at Beijing University and volunteered at an orphanage.

Kent said that as a scholar and researcher, it was important to make some difference.

However, the difference she could make was limited, Kent said. She hoped to make a more immediate impact such as raising money and improving facilities for Chinese women and orphans.

Last year was the first year Kent held the benefit in Beijing. It was held at The Pavillion and attracted over 125 local and



Jo Kent (first on the left) and her friends who volunteered for the event.

Photo provided by Jo Kent

foreign Beijing residents. About US \$4,000 was raised for the Beijing International Committee for Chinese Orphans and a small orphanage in Shunyi at which Kent and her friends regularly volunteered.

This year's benefit was much larger. Kent began working on it in January and got lots of help

from friends at different NGOs and companies.

She hoped the event could help people become more aware of the gender issues in China, to support the health, education and empowerment of young women and make a difference in the lives of women and young girls throughout the nation.

Kent said Half the Sky works directly with the Chinese government to improve the living situation of orphans and they have great ability to make a direct impact. Kent was inspired by the director, Jenny Bowen, who set up Half the Sky 10 years ago.

For more information about Half the Sky, visit: halfthesky.org.

Event

Tour: Chinese Ethnic Costumes Museum

The China Ethnic Minority Costume Museum in Beijing is a beautiful yet neglected modern museum. It exhibits marvelous clothing, ornaments, and embroideries from 56 Chinese ethnic groups. These antique costumes were collected from all across China, including traditional clothing, such as the Dong people's silver head dresses, Mongolian boots, court and wedding costumes and rural wear plus a variety of accessories and charms.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club to board the van, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: March 11, 9:30 am – 12 am

Cost: 120 yuan, which includes the admission fee, transportation and expert interpretation

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9 am – 6 pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

Booktalk: Christopher Koch's *The Doubleman and Highways to a War*

Australian bestselling author Christopher Koch will talk about his book *The Year of Living Dangerously*. It is about the fall of Sukarno in 1965, and was made into a film by Peter Weir and nominated for an Academy Award. He has twice won the Miles Franklin award for fiction for *The Doubleman and Highways to a War*. In 1995 Koch was made an officer of the Order of Australia for his contribution to Australian literature.

Where: Tony's Place, the small Red House inside the Jianguomen Diplomatic Compound, between buildings 1 and 2

When: March 10, 7 pm – 8 pm

Cost: 50 yuan for members of the Foreign Correspondents Club of China, 100 yuan for non-members

Tel: 8532 5458

Seminar: Labor Law – in theory and practice

The Swedish Chamber of Commerce in China will organize a seminar on labor law. Luka Lu, who was chosen to be included in the 2002 edition of Asia Law Leading Lawyers, will talk about labor laws in China.

Where: Ballroom 1, first floor of Radisson SAS Hotel, A 6, Bei Sanhuan Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: March 11, 8 am – 10 am

Cost: members free of charge; non-members, 300 yuan

Tel: 5922 3388 ext 313

China Focus 2008: Outsourcing Globalization and IT Services to China

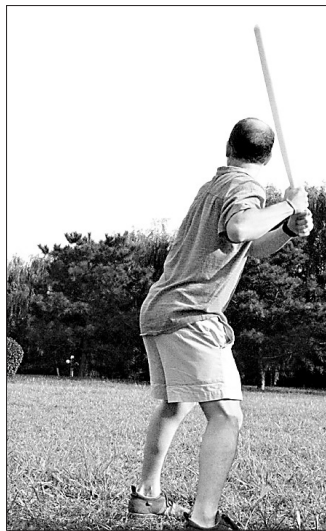
China Focus 2008 will build on the themes from last year's conference: improving localization quality, the consequences of increased Chinese prominence in global markets, and content creation for international markets.

Where: Park Plaza Beijing Science Park, 25, Zhichunlu, Haidian District

When: March 10 – 13

(By He Jianwei)

Wiffle ball to play easily at parks



Wiffle ball players hang out at Chaoyang Park every Saturday.

Photo by Elly Zhen

By Elly Zhen

Wiffle ball is a great choice for any one to get some easy exercise and have great fun on a sunny and warm weather day in Beijing, with a bunch of pals.

Wiffle ball, similar to baseball, is 50 years old. Like many notable achievements, the ubiquitous plastic ball with holes was created, more or less, by accident.

David A. Mullany, President of Wiffle Ball said it all started in the early 1950s in Fairfield, Connecticut, US, when Mullany and his school chums got in hot water for playing baseball in the local schoolyard. The yard was so small, that they often broke the school windows and drew the attention of the police.

Moving the game to his parents' backyard, Mullany substituted a larger plastic baseball and used a sawed-off broom handle for the bat. Back in the old days, when you struck out, you "wiffled," hence the name, he said.

Wiffle ball is an easy game that can be played on a "Three-Zero" premise.

Zero training

As long as you can pitch and hit, you can play wiffle ball. "It doesn't take much skill. Even those of us who sucked in little league, can shine in this game," said Rueben Levy, a 28-year-old from Pennsylvania, who plays wiffle ball in Chaoyang Park every Saturday.

"Playing wiffle ball is just a desire to release your inhibitions. It looks goofy to passers, and they always have a willingness to try," Levy said.

Zero expense

Although wiffle ball looks like baseball, it doesn't require a special field or a lot of equipment. "Just a small open space, a plastic bat and a couple of wiffle balls," Matthew Kern, from Missouri, another member of the Chaoyang Park wiffle ball league, said.

"One person can bring all the equipment and everyone else just has to show up," he said.

Zero borders

Wiffle ball is a welcoming and friendly game that anyone can join. Matthew and Rueben think wiffle ball is "a children's game which can be challenging." When they play in the park, people watch and, after a while, just walk up and ask to play. After a few practice throws and swings, newcomers play well, even if it is their first time.

Open auditions held by IFC for May musical

By Annie Wei

The International Festival Chorus (IFC) held its public auditions on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon for a musical it will be staging later this year.

They are going to put on a fully-staged production of Lionel Bart's musical *Oliver!* with a youth and adult chorus plus a full orchestra.

The chorus has invited Bernard Gillardeau, a choreographer from

Paris, to fly into town for a week to assist before he returns again in May to work with the dancers. The chorus thinks it is an opportunity to get as many people as possible to come out and make good use of the occasion.

Gillardeau, in his 50s, has worked on the choreography of musicals like *Hello Dolly*, *Cabaret*, *La Cage aux Folles* as well as a lot of operatic dance numbers.

He will select a team of dancers from the people who come to this audition to form the dance team for *Oliver*, which will work directly with him at weekly rehearsals in May until the performance of the show May 28 – June 1. The audition welcomed men and women of all nationalities and ages.

Zhang Kemin, the musical director, said it will be a lot of fun and they would get to work

with some of the best dancers in town.

The International Festival Chorus was founded by Beijing-based British conductor Nicholas Smith and singers James Baer and Nancy Fraser in 2002. It serves as a choir of talented, amateur singers who wanted to join the Beijing musical community, while at the same time introducing Chinese audiences to Western classical music.

Guidelines for the new airport terminal

By Annie Wei

After four years of construction, the new terminal of the Capital Airport entered use last Friday.

The distance between T1, T2 and T3 is seven kilometers. It takes a 10-minute drive if the traffic is reasonable. Passengers who accidentally get off at the wrong terminals can get free buses from Gate 11 of T2 to T3. These buses depart every seven minutes. There are many duty free booths in the new terminal.

The new structure is divided into C, D and E function areas. Area C provides services for formalities on domestic and international planes, domestic departures and domestic and international baggage claims; area D is temporarily used for serving the chartered planes during the 2008 Olympic Games and the International Paralympics; area E is for international departures and arrivals.

T3 airline departures

Six airlines started boarding at T3 on February 29. They are Shandong Airline (SC), Sichuan Airline (3U), Australian Airline (QF), Qatar Airways (QR), British Airways (BA) and EL AL Israel Airlines Limited (LY).

More airlines will switch to T3 after March 26. They are Air China (CA), Shanghai Airlines (FM), SAS (SK), Australian Airlines (OS), Lufthansa (LH), Asiana (OZ), Canadian Airlines (AC), United Airlines (UA), ANA (NH), Thai Airways (TG), Singapore Airlines (SQ), Finnair (AY), Cahty Pacific Airways (CX), JAL (JL), Dragonair (KA), Cathay Pacific Airways (CX), JAL (JL), Turkish Airlines (TK), Emirates (EK), Air Macao (NX), Novosibirsk Air-

lines (S7), Egypt Air (MS), Hainan Airlines (HU) and Polish Airlines.

PSB's visa service

The Exit and Entry bureau of the People's Security Bureau (PSB) has set up an office at the T3 to provide a 24-hour service to grant visas to foreigners who come to China without one.

However, such visas are not for everyone, Liu Yan, vice-director of the PSB airport office, said.

"There are certain situations when the airport PSB service provides landing visas, such as the death of a family member, when people do not have the time to apply for a visa from Chinese embassies in their countries," Liu said.

Foreigners who have an invitation from institutes approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can get landing visas as well. That normally means big state-owned companies or government bodies instead of private or foreign-investment firms.

"People from Taiwan Province on chartered planes during the four special Chinese holidays can also get landing visas," Liu said.

Transportation

There are six new bus lines from downtown Beijing to T3 with 88 buses. The earliest bus from downtown leaves at 6:30 am and the last at 8 pm.

There is a 15-minute interval between each bus on some lines, such as from Gongzufen, Xidan and Beijing railway station. Lines from Fangzhuang and Zhongguancun have a 30 minute wait time between each bus.

The bus from T3 back to downtown starts at 9:30 am and finishes at 10:30 pm, with 30 minutes per shuttle.



Terminal 3 at Capital Airport is one of the five biggest in the world.

Photo by Dai Bing

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I am rather new in Beijing and I have seen a lot of apartment units being offered for sale. Can a foreigner buy such a dwelling unit?

A foreigner can buy a flat in Beijing. To buy in Beijing, a foreigner has to get a certificate of eligibility. To get that, you have to prove you've been here for more than one year, either for study or work. You cannot buy one if you are here on an "L" or "F" visa.

I am planning to go to Tibet in October. How can I organize this trip from Europe? I would like to fly to China and then take the Tibet railway to Lhasa. How will I be able to book seats and get the "permits?"

The ticket-offices here are told that tickets may only be purchased 10 days in advance, so I'm afraid that you cannot book so early. But if you want more information, you can check the following Web sites, which discuss travel permits, schedules and the best routes:

chinatibettrain.com
ihotpot.com

I haven't eaten Ethiopian food since I was in Bangkok last year. I really miss it. Are there any Ethiopian restaurants in Beijing?

Beijing's first Ethiopian restaurant, Ras Ethiopian Cuisine, was to open at Lido on Thursday. The restaurant, open only for dinner, will hold live Ethiopian song and dance performances. Guests can purchase freshly ground Ethiopian coffee at the gift shop.

Where: 14 Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8479 8388

(By Wan Ran)

7

Debate



Eastern and western viewpoints meet here



洋腔论见

文化差异的碰撞与融合



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7

Debate

BEIJING TODAY

Cartoon

By He Jianwei

When Damon Albarn, one of the members of the Brit pop band Blur, and Jamie Hewlett, co-creator of the comic book Tank Girl, formed the virtual band, Gorillaz in 1998, they won great fame in the UK and the US. The hip-hop/trip-hop band was comprised of four animated band members, 2D, Murdoc, Noodle and Russel. Now in China, many bands, no matter old or new, are finding ways to combine their music with cartoons. For them, animation has a more or less chemical reaction with their music.



Last Friday, in the office of the Pilot Records Company, the first Chinese band with cartoon characters, Caffe-in, talked about their music and cartoons. On a cabinet in the office was showcased a collection of model toys, including Gundam, Transformers and the figures of the band, Gorillaz.

Both their cartoon images, and their music reflect their attitude towards life. "To be sincere to everything and everybody is our life mission. We'd like to bring the message of dreams, love and hope to other people through our music and cartoons," Liu Bofei, the band's guitarist said.



Caffe-in, the first Chinese band with cartoon characters, believes both their cartoon images and their music reflect their attitude towards life.

Other

In Beijing, there's music with cartoons

Reflector, an

Reflector is a pun. In 2001, Reflector became the first Chinese band to tour the US. They included a gig in San Francisco.

Last Friday, Reflector recorded an extended play, *huan hua*, the bassist and guitarist's cartoon images for their band.

Although it is a new idea and concept, the band's mode titled "Liberation" was their cartoon images last year.

They asked one of their fans to draw a cartoon image for them. It is also a fan of the band, leading to the band's new image.

Caffe-in

Band: Caffe-in
Released in 2007
Style: Pop-punk, SKA

It is their first album, full of songs encouraging young people to dream and hope.



Caffe-in, first band to get cartooned-up

Caffe-in is the first band to use cartoon characters on the Chinese mainland, and not only because the voice of their lead singer sounds like an anime character, but because they love reading and drawing cartoons.

Caffe-in formed on September 29, 2004, and plays pop-punk and SK a music genre that originated in Jamaica in the late 1950s.

The band has four members, one from China and three others from Japan. Sayu, from Kumamoto, Japan, is the lead vocalist; Masato, from Tokyo, Japan, is the bassist; Massang, also from Kumamoto, Japan, is the drummer; and Liu Bofei, from Beijing, is the guitarist.

The members from Japan learned Chinese at Beijing Language and Culture University and can speak fluently.

They sang the theme song for Kaku TV, a Beijing cartoon TV channel. The band released an album last year, in which the lead track was titled, "Come On, Little Caterpillar" with lyrics encouraging young people to fulfill their dreams.

Each band member has an animal image created at the end of last year. Sayu's image is a female rabbit; Massang, a caterpillar; Masato, a panda; and Liu, a monkey.

Sayu likes drawing in her spare time. The characters under her pen stroke are usually sexy and crazy about rock and roll. "She drew four pandas to represent the members in our band, but her paintings are very erotic," Masato said.

Although Sayu's pandas could not be shown to the fans, she did design a figure of a rabbit for herself. When asked which animal was her image, she said, "I think you already know that. It is easy to recognize mine."

The pink rabbit is for Sayu. "It is the only female among the four animals. I made her with breasts, but I am not satisfied because I made her breasts too small. The rabbit is a female, so I wanted to give her more feminine endowments," Sayu said.

Liu drew the caterpillar. At a charity auction, Liu drew a picture of a caterpillar, and one of their fans received the drawing. When they wanted to make animal images for themselves, the first image that came to mind was the caterpillar.

Liu was a big fan of cartoons and he dreamt of being a cartoonist one day but, as he began to play guitar, his musical journey took over. In his spare time, he still

draws cartoons.

He believes that cartoons and rock and roll share the same spirit. "Both of them are full of passion and made for people who have a young soul," he said.

They endowed the animal images with their own characteristics. In the other members' eyes, Sayu is capricious and childlike, so her rabbit was naughty and weird. "It looked like a female MashiMaro," she said.

Masato is introverted and a little bit hypercritical. He thought his panda was bright and clever.

Liu is an easy-going person and likes to have fun, but is not good at synchronized movement. "My monkey is not as nimble as people imagine. He is a fool with clumsy movements," he said.

Massang is unsophisticated and always silent and mysterious. The caterpillar moves slowly because of a long tail. "It is really similar to the character of Massang. When I ask him to bring me a bottle of water, his moves slowly and methodically like a caterpillar," Sayu said.

The four animals were first introduced on stage on December 26 last year. When they attend music awards, they walk the red carpet in their animal costumes.

More bands joining the animation nation

are a few other bands trying to combine their

Animation in motion

Pink rock band founded in Beijing in 1997. In the time one of the first punk bands from China, the band performed in seven west coast cities, Sacramento opening for Anti-Flag.

Reflector came to their company and decided to play (EP). Before their recording, Tian Jian and lead vocalist, shared new ideas about cartoon and

10-year-old band, Reflector wants to adapt concepts. They made a video for MTV in flash "Be Yourself" and they had their own cartoon

of their friends who is a graphic designer and band, to design their cartoon images according to members' distinctive characteristics.

"My image has a tattoo because I

have a tattoo of Megatron (*Transformers*) on my right arm," Tian said and folded back his sleeve.

Cartoons play an important role in young people's lives and they will get in touch with our music through the cartoons, Tian said.

"We are a punk rock band, so it is easy for us to adopt some cartoon elements," he said.

A catchy theme helps people remember the cartoon. "In our childhood, when we heard the theme song of Smart Ikkyu san, we knew the cartoon was starting. And that song still sticks in our minds," he said.

Meanwhile, the cartoonist and designer need music. "Music is the source of inspiration for most artists, including cartoonists and designers," he said.

The related cartoon images of their band must reflect the spirit of Reflector. "We are young, full of discontent and rebellion," he said.

In the future, Reflector will make dolls and cartoons. "We decided to make three characters in a cartoon feature showing

our own stories, including how we make music," he said.

Tian believes the cartoon has opened another door for Reflector and their music.

New Pants, animated promotion

New Pants is a band containing some of the brightest and most original and adventurous artists operating in China today. The band was formed in 1996 by four boys from the hutongs of Beijing.

In their early days they were influenced by the New Wave movement and especially the Ramones, but in recent years their sound and style has leaned more toward 80s disco and electro, which combined with their startling, eye-catching stage presence, marks them vibrant, original fish in the over-crowded pond of the Chinese music scene.

When they released the album, *We Are Automatic*, they made a stop-motion animation music video to accompany it and created cartoon images of their members.

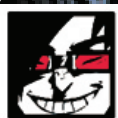
"The cartoon images are more powerful and interesting," Peng Lei, the lead vocalist said.

Latest albums

Moment of Growth

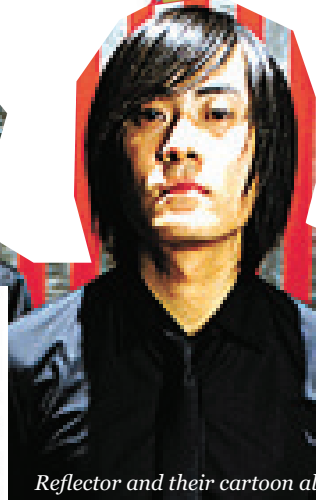
Band: Reflector
Released in 2007
Style: Punk Rock
The album marks the band's tenth anniversary and seems to declare that it's time to grow up.

Dragon Tiger Panacea
Band: New Pants
Released in 2006
Style: New Wave
It features the 1980's disco style and, most importantly, the melancholy about this passing era.



REFLECTOR BAND

反光镜



Reflector and their cartoon alter-egos

Photos provided by Pilot Records

No atonement in sight for some lies

In his first novel after the Booker Prize-winning *Amsterdam*, Ian McEwan is back with *Atonement* (496pp, Anchor, US \$7.99). Though the release fell just short of 2001's Booker, *Publishers Weekly* hailed it as a sweeping, expansive and worthy follow up. *Time* magazine listed it among its "100 Greatest Novels" of all time.

McEwan's stage is a stately-looking home in England in 1935. On closer inspection, its stateliness is a sham to hide the source of the family's new wealth, which was generated by a grandfather who filed a few clever patents.

As the story opens, a 13-year-old Briony Tallis, aged 13, has written a play for her brother. Her sister, Cecilia Tallis, 23, has returned home from university amidst a cloud of confused feelings for Robbie Turner, the housekeeper's son whose studies were financed by her father Jack Tallis.

Disaster comes in the form of one lie hatched in the mind of Briony after Cecilia and Robbie break a vase in a fountain and she strips to her underwear to jump in and fish out the pieces in front of a stunned Robbie. The sexual tension inspires Robbie to write a letter to Cecilia to tell his feel-

ings. The first of his two letters, scattered with more sexual innuendos, finds its way to Cecilia's hands via Briony.

The two realize their love and have a heated sexual encounter in the family library, which Briony interrupts believing it to be an assault.

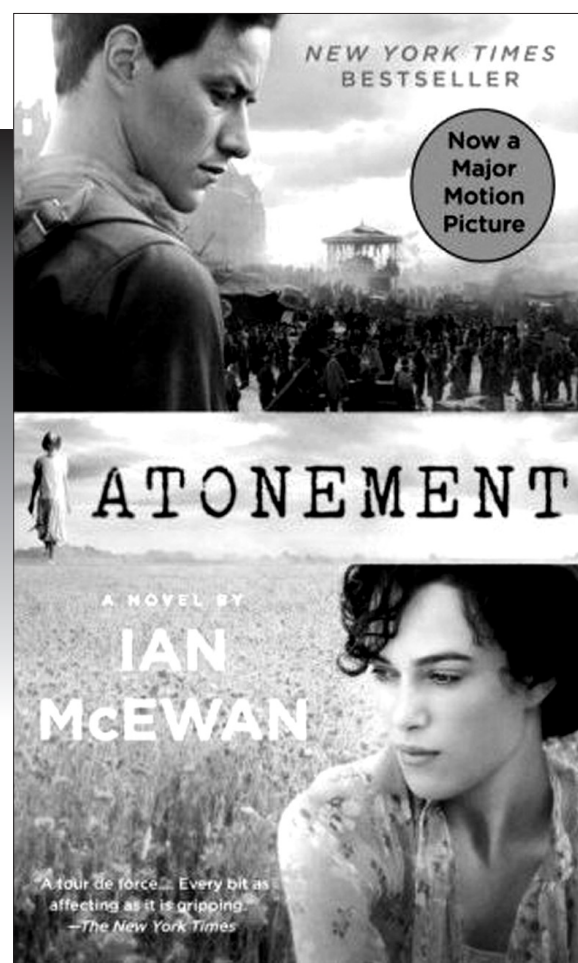
During the next dinner, Briony's twin cousins run away and leave behind a letter. When Briony finds one of them raped by an unknown attacker, she assumed it to be Robbie and convinces Lola it was him. Based on their words alone, the police take him away.

The title of the book becomes its main theme as years later, Briony is forever plagued by how she destroyed two lives. She tries many ways to atone for her lies, but concludes nothing can ever atone for what she did.

The book considers types of lies – those made in reality and those written in a book – and what impact such lies can have on the lives of the people involved.

A film adaptation of the book was released last year and directed by Joe Wright. It stars James McAvoy and Keira Knightley.

(By Derrick Sobodash)



Rethinking a war

By Charles Zhu

When people are reassessing the rationale of the war in Iraq, they naturally think of the Vietnam War that took place three decades ago.

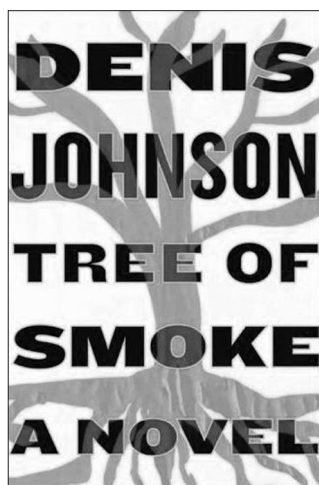
Tree of Smoke by Denis Johnson (614pp, Farrar, Strauss and Gironx, US \$27) is one effort that arrives at a different interpretation of the war that is in a remote comparison with the public discourse about America's current involvement in Iraq.

The main characters are two blue-collar brothers from the southwestern US: Bill Houston, a Navy lifer, and James, his younger brother and an army volunteer. James survives battle to return to Arizona for a life of alcohol, drugs and petty crime.

The other two main characters are the officers Colonel, a 40-something Boston Catholic who has lost his faith, and his young nephew William Skip Sands.

Colonel is delineated by the novelist as a legendary hero of action. "He was, at the moment, drunk and held up by the power of his own history: football for Knute Rockne at Notre Dame, missions for the Flying Tigers in Burma, anti-guerrilla operations here in this jungle with Edward Lansdale and, more lately, in South Vietnam."

Skip is fatherless, and one of his uncles fills in as guide and protector. He has a master's in comparative literature. When the war ends, Skip takes up crime in the Philippines and Malaysia and marries a Philippine woman. The two have three sons, all of which



he abandons.

Kathy Jones is a young widow of a missionary murdered by guerrillas in the Philippines. She does relief work for children in South Vietnam. The author pens her like a little whore: "In two-inch heels and a blue skirt and yellow T-shirt tight across her training bra."

Skip, responsible for collating information cards for Colonel in the Vietnamese countryside, falls into depression and puts the moves on Jones. Though she encourages it with letters to him, nothing ever comes of their relationship.

The characters in the novel are all people who suffer from broken families and the throes of war.

Tree of Smoke is a novel that deals with the damages done to the US participants in the war: the ones who go mad or end up dead, lost or alone. Sympathy is the driving emotion behind Johnson's work.

Bookworm book listing

Jenny Niven from the Bookworm recommends three new titles to read during the Beijing Bookworm International Literary Festival, March 6 to 20.

The Terracotta Army

By John Man, 304 pp, Bantam Press, 200 yuan

The Terracotta Army is one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of all time. As many as 8,099 life-size warriors and horses were interred in the Mausoleum of the First Emperor, Qin Shi Huang. This is the remarkable story of their creation, the man who ordered them made, their rediscovery and their continuing legacy as a symbol of Chinese greatness. The first Terracotta warrior was found by a local

farmer in 1974. Further excavations have revealed the full splendor of the buried army, but the majority of the mausoleum is yet to be opened, including the burial chamber itself.

Beijing Walks: Exploring the Heritage

By Don J Cohn, 384 pp, Odyssey, 240 yuan

Beijing Walks presents six detailed walking tours of the most important historic quarters of the Chinese capital: the Forbidden City, the former Legation Quarter, Beihai Park, the Temple of Heaven, the Confucius Temple, the Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square and the Olympic Village. All tours are placed in their imperial contexts and enlivened with traditional maps, drawings and photographs.

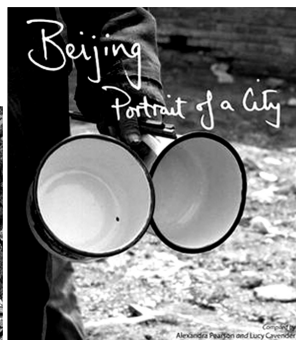
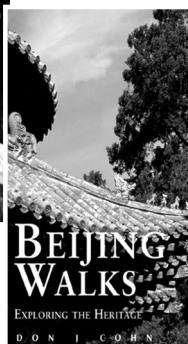
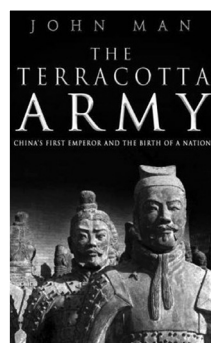
Cohn offers vital information on everything from feng shui, Pekingese dogs and Peking duck to Peking Opera and the emperors' private lives.

Beijing: Portrait of a City

By Alexandra Pearson and Lucy Cavender, 170 pp, Odyssey, 240 yuan

Beijing: Portrait of a City is a captivating collection of stories, essays, poetry and memories by leading Chinese authors, storytellers and academics about a city they know from the inside. It is a fascinating overview of Beijing today, and features writing from Peter Hessler, Ma Jian, Tim Clissold and Zhu Wen.

(By Zhang Dongya)



By Gan Tian

How far is fashion from literature? The distant fields met on the fabric battlefield of 12 Dresses for China, an exhibition that opened last Saturday at the Beijing Institute Cervantes. The exhibition lasts until April 6.

When fashion meets literature

Juan Pugos



Amaya Arzuaga



Miriam Ocariz

Twelve Spanish designers came to town for 12 Dresses for China, an exhibition where they were required to make dresses based on famous books.

"We've brought together fashion and literature to enliven Chinese readers' interest in literary works in the Spanish language using original textures, forms and colors brought up by some of our most renowned designers," Concha Hernandez, the curator, said.

Beijing Today selected some of the best parts of the show to highlight what happens when literature and fashion meet.

One Hundred Years of Solitude, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

As one of the important designers who made the trip to Beijing, Modesto Lomba explained Gabriel Garcia Marquez's world-famous work One Hundred Years of Solitude.

His design is a snow-white female coat with smooth sketches and outlines. Behind the minimalism lies complex details: the piano-material black button in the belt, the tight belt and the natural curves on the sleeves.

Lomba said he was impressed by the organization of Marquez's book. He mentioned that the complexity of the organization is hidden behind the simple language of the book.

The repetition of the names in the book did not make it into Lomba's work. When talking about his understanding of the text as a Spanish designer, he said the language was the same as his own, which made the cultural connection easier.

Ilona Arrives With the Rain, by Alvaro Mutis

Agatha Ruiz de la Prada,

a 48-year-old female designer, showed up for the exhibition's opening ceremony.

Her work is a female one-piece with large sections of bright color. The suit shows the designer's desire for sexiness, and at the same time, her unwillingness to betray her childlike heart.

"I know people wouldn't believe me if I say I am a little similar to Ilona," the designer said. "At first, I believed those words describing love-at-first-sight were written just for me."

In the book, Colombian writer Alvaro Mutis tells the tale of an encounter between two friends in a depressing place with little hope in their hearts.

Latitud (Latitude), by Jose Angel Valente

Sergio Pastor and Ismael Alcaina, two 33-year-old Spanish designers, are known as "Spastor" in fashion circles. The dynamic duo is presenting men's swimwear to explain Jose Angel Valente's poem "Latitude."

The all-black suit radiates manly charm, though the tight waistline and thin upper fabric lends a slight feminine touch. Sometimes, fashion is the denial of the obvious.

Jose Angel Valente's poem is not easy to classify. It reaches beyond the social orientation of earlier post-civil-war Spain of the late 1950s and 1960s, and deepens the philosophical questions about man's place.

Photos provided by Beijing Institute Cervantes

Other works included

Ailanto: The Years with Laura Diaz, by Carlos Fuentes
Alma Aguilar: Five Hours With Mario, by Miguel Delibes
Amaya Arzuaga: Delirium and Destiny, by Maria Zambrano
Davidelfin: Exentos II (Exempts II), by Antonio Gamoneda
Duyos: The Snow Queen, by Carmen Martin Gaité
Francis Montesinos: Carlota Fainberg, by Munoz Molina
Lydia Delgado: The Maravillas District, by Rosa Chacel
Miriam Ocariz: Garden, by Dulce Maria Loynaz
Victorio & Lucchino: 'Soles' (Suns), by Juan Gelman

Davidelfin

The geek shall inherit the earth

Nerf's up!

There comes a time in every cube-dweller's life, when he or she has to take the law into his or her hands. Maybe it's finding out that the stooge from marketing has stolen your last pencil ... again! Or perhaps you're tired of having your office moved repeatedly. Well, it's time to draw a line in the low pile carpet. "No more," you'll cry as you stand your ground. With a Nerf Maverick by your side, you will prevail.

Load the six foam darts into the barrel, give it a spin, and click it back into place. This is the six-shooter of the future! Lock and load. Yes, that's right, just like the famous Robin Hood stunt of splitting one arrow with another. In fact there is only one thing better for your office arsenal than owning a Nerf Maverick – owning two!

Available: Gadgetlife.cn
Price: US \$12.9



By Wang Chuyang

Ever been bored at work and needed a little something to keep you sane in your 5-foot by 5-foot work cell? Why not wage war with the goons from sales across the room?



Rubber band revenge!

Load up to 10 rubber bands at once and then accurately launch them one by one, all at once or in small bursts. Whatever the moment dictates. A lifetime warranty and some of the cheapest ammo on the planet assures you'll always be able to respond to those lame ambushes. With a little practice, you can control both the rate of fire in full auto and the length of bursts, or you can elect to fire a single deadly shot in semi-automatic mode. You can also select the shotgun mode and have the whole magazine unload as a single "shotgun charge".

Available: Firewheel.com
Price: US \$17.4

Let's do launch sometime!

In the days before gunpowder, folks had to find new and intriguing ways to launch death and destruction at each other. They started by throwing rocks, then progressed to hurling giant stones and then to flinging boulders.

These kits let you bring back all that flinging fun. Each one can be assembled in just a few hours, and provides a fantastic scale model of an actual war weapon of yore. The catapult is perfect for chucking balls of paper and other small objects over cubicle walls. The trebuchet is better for long range targets, like the water cooler or network printer. And, all you need to put them together are some strong fingers or pliers, a cutting tool and glue. All three kits are perfect for showing your love of retro weaponry.

Available:
Firebox.com
Price: Ballista
£ 4.95, Trebuchet
£ 14.95, Catapult
£ 14.95



Shoot air from your swivel chair

Airzooka is the 'fun gun' that blows a harmless ball of air towards any object, person (or animal). The invisible projectile will travel up to thirty feet and beyond!

Cackle with amusement as, seemingly from nowhere, you are able to mess up a person's hair, ruffle their shirt, dress or business reports from a distance!

The Airzooka is surprisingly accurate and offices loathe them! But it's such fun to watch someone twenty feet away suddenly leap a foot into the air because of the ghost-like ball of air that just nailed him.

Requiring no batteries or electricity, AirZooka operates simply by pulling and releasing a built-in elastic air launcher. And here's the best part: because it shoots air, you'll never run out of ammo.

Available: Gadgetlife.cn
Price: US \$12.9

Make room for the boom!

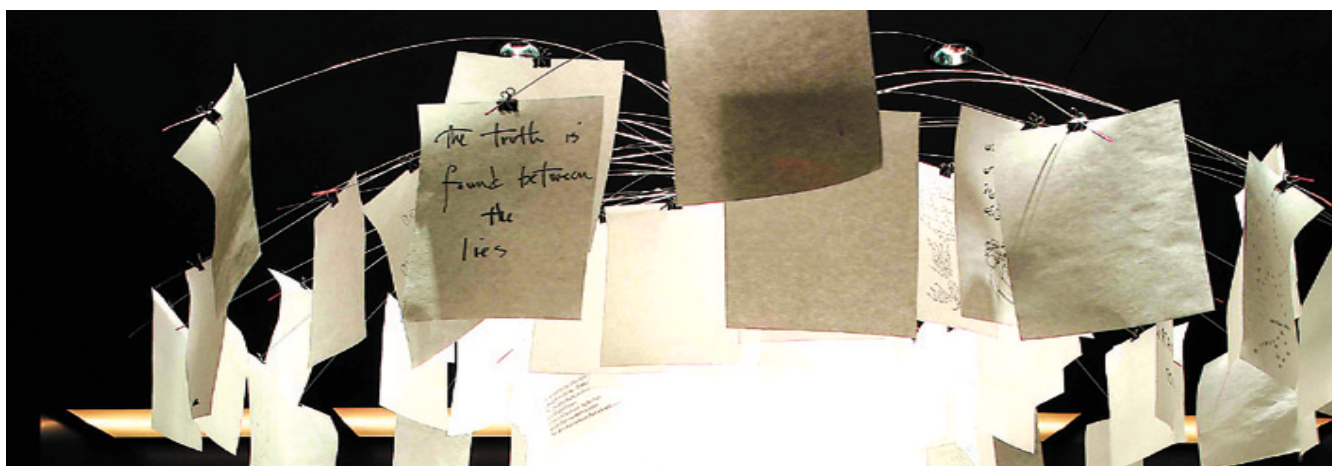
The secret to the USB Doomsday Device is very simple – it has three levels of failsafe protection. In order to arm the Device, you first need to activate switch one. Then, switch two. Then, you need to activate switch three. Switch three is a key switch, and only authorized personnel should have a copy of the key. Once all three switches are turned on, the main light will glow red. This means the Device is armed and very dangerous.

All that is left to do is flip back the plastic shield and press the red

button for an explosive sound effect. But what really happens when you press the button? We're not sure. Perhaps 15 kittens explode; perhaps your bank account lowers by a fraction of a cent. But one thing is clear, before pushing the button, you must ask yourself, "Do I feel lucky, punk? Well ... do I?" Because, who knows, the explosion you hear from the USB Doomsday Device might just be the sound of your brain vaporizing.

Available: Thethingsiwant.com
Price: US \$39.99





My Humble House

not humble at all

By Gan Tian

The International Star Diamond Awards 2007, presented by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences, went to My Humble House at the Oriental Plaza last Tuesday. *Beijing Today* humbly introduces a cooking class by Sam Leong, the corporate chef and director of kitchens for the Tung Lok restaurant group.

My Humble House at the Oriental Plaza was opened by Singaporean restaurant group Tung Lok in November 2004. Its second Beijing branch opened in 2006 at China Central Place.

If the directions are any indication, then My Humble House is properly named. The decorations are simple – simply the best. The restaurant group's executive chairman Andrew Tjioe and Japanese architect and designer S Miura created the interior. The heavy wooden door is carved with the restaurant's logo. The tableware was handpicked or custom-made from various sources around

the world.

Its "Innovative Chinese cuisine" is more like exceptional artistic presentation. The juxtaposition of traditional Chinese and modern artistic elements in the restaurant's design blend perfectly, creating an extremely fresh appeal, but without sacrificing the cozy, relaxed atmosphere of many restaurants.

Its Diced Tuna Served in Cones tastes a little bit salty, but never fishy. The small pieces of vegetables cover up any fishy flavor. After finishing the tuna and vegetables, take up your spoon and dig into the cone.

The Braised Fresh Shark's Fin with Crab Roe is served alongside Hot and Sour Soup for a colorful combo. Red crab, orange shark fin, green coriander leaves and a cup of light yellow sour soup – it is one hundred percent nutritious and eye-catching.

The restaurant creatively blends global ingredients with traditional and modern Chinese cooking methods and flavors with special attention to artistic presentation. With such good dishes and a good environment, it is no wonder Tung Lok has opened so many humble houses.

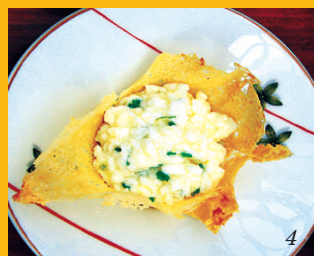
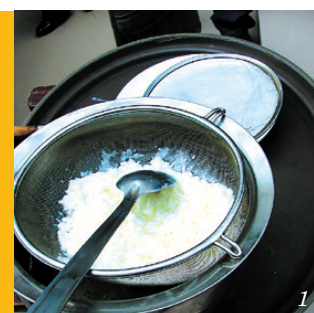
About International Star Diamond Awards

The American Academy of Hospitality Sciences acknowledges and rewards excellence in the international travel and luxury services industries. Every year, the Academy bestows its International Star Diamond Awards on establishments that offer exceptional service quality. The award is the culinary service equivalent of the Oscar.

Sam Leong's modern Chinese cuisine class

Sam Leong, chef and director of kitchens for Tung Lok Restaurants, visited Beijing for the award ceremony and introduced his Spring Cuisine Festival.

Leong's new set menu, priced at 450 yuan, contains eight courses. The 41-year-old chef held a cooking class last Thursday at My Humble House of the Oriental Plaza to make three dishes: Pan-Seared French Foie Gras With Sautéed Egg White and Fresh Milk, Caviar Served In Crispy Bamboo Fungus Basket and Braised Lobster With Fragrant Rice Accompanied With Fresh Black Truffles.



Caviar Served In Crispy Bamboo Fungus Basket

1. Mix milk, flour and wasabi and bake it.
2. Mix the bamboo fungus with flour, fry them and put it under the bowl to make a cup shape.
3. Pour the mixture into the fungus cup.
4. Sprinkle green vegetable powder and threads of meat.
5. A typical modern Chinese Caviar Served In Crispy Bamboo Fungus Basket is ready.

Photos by Gan Tian

Photos provided by Ogilvy PR

Nightlife



INCUBUS
Presented by China West Entertainment

北京 票价/Ticket Price: 600 VIP / 500 / 400 RMB
2008年3月12日 晚八点
Mar 12 2008 8pm
北京星光现场音乐厅
Beijing Star Live Music Hall
和平里西街70号
No.70 He Ping Xi Xi St
(010) 6425 5677 400 810 3721

上海
2008年3月13日 晚八点
Mar 13 2008 8pm
上海云隆剧院
Shanghai Yun Feng Theater
北京西路1700号
1700 Beijing Xi Lu
(021) 6289 3919 100000000000

The album 'Light Grenades' released 28th November www.enjoyincubus.com

Incubus – Light Grenades Tour 2008

Grammy Award-nominated alternative rock band, Incubus, is set to rock the house at Star Live. The band is touring in support of their sixth and latest studio album, Light Grenades. Light Grenades debuted at number one on the Billboard 200, selling 165,000 copies in the US. in its first week; it is the band's first number one album.

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo Building, Yonghegongqiao Bei, Chaoyang

When: 8:30 pm, March 12
Admission: 400-600 yuan
Tel: 6425 5677



Women Rock Night

Where: New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang
When: 9:30 pm, March 8
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 8448 3335



24-Hour Party People

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard, former site of Duan Qirui Government, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

When: 9:30 pm, March 7
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

Dining

Rougie

Exclusive to The Westin Beijing, Financial Street and renowned worldwide as the finest producers of goose and duck foie gras, 'Rougie' makes their debut in China. Lovers of fine food will rejoice with exquisite dishes featured in Prego and Jewel. The finest French fare are fused with subtle Chinese or Italian elements and flavors.

Where: Prego or Jewel, the Westin Beijing, 9B Jinrong Jie, Xicheng

When: 11 am – 11:30 pm (Prego), 11:30 am – 10:30 pm (Jewel)

Cost: All prices subject to a 15% service charge

Tel: 6629 7815 (Prego), 6629 7820 (Jewel)



Spa

LeSpa

LeSpa at Sofitel Wanda Beijing is the first to appear in China. In keeping with Sofitel's French art de vivre, LeSpa offers a complete multi-sensory experience to business and leisure travelers, as well as local residents, who are seeking the ultimate in relaxation and rejuvenation.

LeSpa delivers a unique experience combining modern French luxury and traditional Chinese well-being. Embracing the wisdom of Feng Shui, everything in LeSpa at Sofitel Wanda Beijing has been conceived to soothe and harmonize senses and to nurture a deep feeling of replenishment. It focuses on each individual, catering to his or her every requirement in terms of privacy, intimacy, relaxation and regeneration. Treatments and rituals are all about producing the 'end result' that each client needs. Like any other LeSpa around the world, privacy is a key issue which means guests can find here not only private areas, a unique atmo-



sphere and maximum comfort, but also a place where they can be by themselves

Where: Sofitel Wanda Beijing, Tower C, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang

When: Promotion until March 31

Cost: 9,500-30,000 yuan

Tel: 8599 6666 ext 6905

Outdoors

The Perfect Loop

For this hike you will take a trip to Pinggu County for a moderately difficult walk that will take you up and down valleys and a small gorge, over mountain passes, along ridges, across a plateau, and through a few small and tranquil villages. In many places along the way you will enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding mountains.

The trail starts in a village and follows a wide lane up a valley, gently ascending until to finally reach a mountain pass. At the top, the skyline suddenly opens, with views of valleys, peaks, and other passes in sight, and bigger mountains looming in the distance. From the pass you continue, skirting the high parts of a valley that contain a small, sleepy village. Some of the village's houses are built high up the valley, and the inhabitants must get quite a nice view from their homes – whether the view is much appreciated is another question!

The path circumvents most of the village, leads to another pass, and then down into a narrow gorge. At the end of the gorge is a curiously-located park, complete with decorated



gates and traditionally-styled buildings. The park is usually deserted, especially in winter. Next is an ancient trail leading up a valley and a zigzag path to a tiny 10 house village sitting on a plateau. The houses are mainly constructed of the flat stones found on the plateau.

From the village you follow the trail as it leads along a ridge and back down toward the starting point.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am – 5 pm, March 8

Cost: 300 yuan

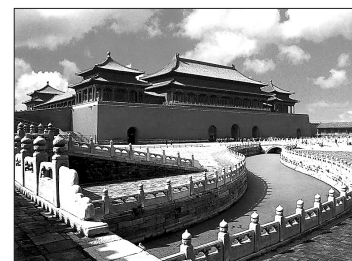
Tel: 13910025516 (reservations are essential)

Forbidden City & Tiananmen Square

The 3.5-hour guided walk provides informative and real explanations of the Forbidden City, not only covering the history, architecture, Feng Shui, rituals and life in the Forbidden City, but also the planning of the imperial-walled capital and present-day development.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of KFC, next to the Laoshe Teahouse (Qianmen Xi Dajie, Xuanwu)

When: 9 am – noon, March 7



Cost: 300 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration at CCC is important)

(By Li Jing)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to
lixiaojing@ynet.com

Antioxidants: a complete cure-all

By Zhang Dongya

You may know your skin needs antioxidants and spend too much money on expensive antioxidant cosmetics. However, your body is also in danger of oxidation and needs special care. The first Forum on Antioxidants and Wellness was held in Beijing last Sunday. Numerous nutritionists from home and abroad agreed that oxidation is the very source of many kinds of diseases and the best way to prevent disease is to eat antioxidant-rich food.

Oxidation can be dangerous

The process of oxidation in the human body damages cell membranes and other structures including cellular proteins, lipids and DNA. When oxygen is metabolized, it creates free radicals which steal electrons from other molecules, resulting in damage.

Free radicals are highly unstable and reactive molecules that attack, infiltrate and injure vital cell structures. They are constantly formed as a natural by-product of body chemistry. Free radicals are highly toxic and can damage important cellular molecules such as DNA, lipids or other parts of the cell, impairing the brain and other tissue. They are believed to accelerate the progression of age-related conditions and other diseases.

The body can cope with some free radicals and needs them to function effectively. However, an overload of them has been linked to certain diseases, including heart disease, liver disease and some cancers. Oxidation can be accelerated by stress, cigarette smoking, alcohol, sunlight, pollution and other factors.

Antioxidant tips

Antioxidants are found in certain foods that neutralize free radicals. These include the nutrient antioxidants, vitamins A, C and E, and the minerals copper, zinc and selenium.

Other dietary food compounds, such as the photochemicals in plants and zoochemicals from animal products, are believed to have greater antioxidant effects than either vitamins or minerals. These are called the non-nutrient antioxidants and include photochemicals such as lycopenes in tomatoes, and anthocyanins found in cranberries.

Generally, the deeper and richer the color of fruits and vegetables is, the higher the quantity of antioxidants.

However, the color rule of thumb does not apply to varieties of tea. The darker the variety of tea is, the lower its antioxidant concentration, because it has been oxidized.

Fruit juice contains antioxidants, but not as much as the fruits from which they are made, since the antioxidants are concentrated in the skins and pulps.

Top 10 High-Antioxidant Foods

1. Tomatoes

Tomatoes are rich in lycopene which has 20 times the antioxidant potential of vitamin C. In its several categories, small tomatoes have a higher vitamin C content and are better antioxidant effective. You'd better cook them since the lycopene increases several times when cooked.

2. Grapes

The anthocyanin glycosides in grape seeds have a high antioxidant capability: 20 times that of vitamin C and 50 times vitamin E. Grapes used for wine have their antioxidant capacity increased after fermentation.

3. Green tea

Green tea is high in vitamin C and polyphenols. Unlike black and oolong teas, green tea is made from leaves that are not fermented before they are dried. Thus, the antioxidant levels of green tea are five times higher than black tea.

4. Salmon

It is the only meat included in the

antioxidant food list. Its strong antioxidant effect comes from the omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, which balances out the omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids that general livestock and poultry meats contain.

5. Nuts

Nuts including cashews, walnuts, hazelnuts and peanuts are rich in vitamin E and have great antioxidant functions. However, don't eat too many since they are a high fat food.

6. Cauliflower

Having vitamin A and C, cauliflower also contains a unique antioxidant substance. This plant gathers almost all set in anti-oxidants together and is considered an anti-cancer star.

7. Blueberries

Berry fruits are rich in carotene and vitamin C, which are considered the most important components by the medical profession. In addition, they contain potassium and soluble fiber, which can lower blood cholesterol levels

and reduce the probability of suffering from hypertension.

8. Garlic

Sulphide contained in garlic can not only reduce inner body cholesterol effectively, but also prevent hypertension and cardiovascular disease. Drinking a bottle of milk after eating garlic can wipe out the annoying smell.

9. Spinach

Spinach also contains iron, potassium, carotene, vitamin C, magnesium and other minerals as well as folic acid, which can lower blood pressure and boost sentiment effectively. Ask Popeye! Filter spinach in hot water to remove salt before eating it to avoid oxalate stones.

10. Oats

Oats, loaded with protein, calcium, riboflavin, thiamine and other components, are the only cereal grains appearing on the list of best foods. Adequate daily intake of oats can accelerate the human metabolism and the synthesis of amino acids and promote cell renewal.

General recommendations

1. Supplements are not that helpful. Studies suggest that antioxidants are less effective when isolated from food and presented in tablet form. A study examining the effects of vitamin E found that it didn't offer the same

benefits when taken as a supplement.

2. A well-balanced diet is perfect. It is recommended that people eat a wide variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean meats and dairy products every day.

3. Better environmental conditions are also necessary. Stop smoking and avoid second-hand smoke as much as possible. Get away from places spewing radiation pollution and air pollution.



Photo by Liu Ying

The legend of the Loch Ness monster in Scotland is one of the most famous lake monster legends in the world. *The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep*, a new movie about the monster, is screening in Beijing. Although there is no definite conclusion about the legendary lake monster, it still attracts curiosity.

Many other places around the world have tales of lake monsters. The frequent monster sightings in the media have made these lakes hot tourist sites.

The legend of the lakes

Tianchi Lake, Jilin Province

Tianchi Lake on Changbai Mountain, Jilin Province, is the deepest lake in China. It was formed by a volcano break in 1702 and is located on the top of Baitou Peak, the highest peak of Changbai Mountain.

The lake is 2,155 meters above sea level and covers 9 square kilometers. Its average depth is 204 meters.

Tianchi Lake is the national boundary lake of China and North Korea. The lake is surrounded with 16 mountain peaks. Sunny days are rare in Tianchi. It is bounded by huge rocks with no nearby grasses or trees.

The lake is a chilly 7 °C. Its low temperatures limit its fauna to a handful of cold water fish. Many people suspect its limited capacity for life makes food supplies too sparse to support a lake monster. Since the first monster sightings in the 1980s, many visitors have claimed to have seen the giant. Researchers have yet to form a solid conclusion.

The mountain itself is also well-known for its varieties of valuable plants and animals.

With 2,343 kinds of plants, Changbai Mountain is known as a "natural museum." The altitude of the mountain creates temperature striations from temperate to frigid. Old species dating back to 200AD can be found here. There are also species of plants native to North Korea and Japan.

The mountain is home to 1,179 kinds of animals and 200 kinds of vertebrates.

Getting there: Erdaobaohe Town in Antu County, Jilin Province, is the nearest point of departure for visitors bound for Changbai Mountain. In Changchun, capital city of Jilin Province, there are direct buses and trains to Erdaobaohe Town. Trains are available from Beijing to Yanji city or Antu County, which has buses to Erdaobaohe.

Bus information: 0433-5712 564

Cost: North gate of Changbai Mountain, 100 yuan; Tianchi Lake, 25 yuan



Will this buffalo become the monster's meal?



Photo by Liu Qinglin

Getting there: Trains and buses are the main ways to reach Kanas. There are direct trains and buses from Urumchi, capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, to Burqin County.

Cost: 100 yuan



Animal bones are often discovered on Lake Kanas' bank. Locals say they were eaten by the monster.

Photos by Wang Junwu

Kanas Lake, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

Kanas Lake is located in the Altai Valley in Burqin County, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Its name comes from Mongolian and means "lake in the valley." The lake is 1,374 meters above sea level and covers 46 square kilometers.

Kanas Lake is the main source of water in the Kanas Natural Reserve. It is shaped like a crescent, and its color varies by season.

The lake is in the high-frigid temperature zone. Its average temperature in July is 16 °C. There are many cold weather plants in this area, 39 kinds of animals and 224 kinds of insects.

There are a few Tuvas living in the Kanas area, most of whom live in Mongolia and Russia. Tuvas seldom contact the outside world, and have preserved their traditional lifestyle and religion. Most of their homes are built of wood and are near water. The Tuvas are nomadic hunters.

The story about a Kanas monster first appeared in 1985. Witnesses were teachers and students from the biology department of Xinjiang University. The monsters were said to be huge red fish, measuring 10 to 15 meters in length.

In 1987, a group of scientists went to the lake to determine the authenticity of the monsters. After two years of research, the team concluded the monsters were hucho taimens. No one knows how many huge hucho taimens are living in the lake, the accurate size of the fish, how many years they have lived there or what they eat to survive.

Although more and more people claim to have seen monsters in Kanas Lake, no one has presented any reasonable explanation.



A bird's eye view of Tianchi Lake on Changbai Mountain, Jilin Province.

Continued on page 21 ...

Photo by Lin Ye

... continued from page 20



A view of Loch Ness and the nearby ruins of Urquhart Castle.

Lake Champlain, US

Lake Champlain is bounded by the US states of New York and Vermont, and the Canadian province Quebec. The lake covers an area of 1,126 square kilometers. Rivers from the Adirondack Mountains and the Green Mountains empty into the lake. The scenery around the lake is beautiful. It is the sixth largest body of freshwater in the US.

Towns and cities on the shores of Lake Champlain offer opportunities for swimming, boating, fishing, scuba diving and paddling. The largest city on Lake Champlain is Burlington, which has a thriving waterfront, an aquarium and many choices for dining and live entertainment. Travel a few miles north or south, and you will find wide open pastures gently rolling to the lake edge.



The light house in Lake Champlain

Lake Champlain's fishery includes landlocked Atlantic salmon, lake and brown trout, northern pike, walleye, crappie and bass. It is known for its small- and large-mouth bass.

Sailing the lake is a great outing. With prevailing winds averaging 10 knots and steady out of the north-northwest, Champlain is a perfect spot for sailing or gunkhole style cruising.

Records of a Lake Champlain monster are sparser than those of a Loch Ness one. Rumors say that the Champlain monster is like chameleon. It can change its colors from black to grey to green and to brown. Reports have claimed it is 3 to 57 meters long and has several humps.

Getting there: Burlington Airport provides airlines to different countries. Everywhere Taxi, based out of Burlington, provides airport service to and from colleges, ski areas, special events, and anywhere in Vermont and the surrounding areas. It also goes to Montreal. The Chittenden County Transportation Authority offers routes throughout the corridors of the city.

Burlington Airport information: 1-802-863-2874

Everywhere Taxi information: 1-802-238-4121

Chittenden County Transportation Authority information: 1-802-864-2282



Lake Champlain



Loch Ness

Photos provided by Phbase.com

Loch Ness, Scotland

Loch Ness is located in a big valley in the north of the Scottish highland. The lake is about 94 square meters. While not big, it is very deep, with an average depth of 200 meters.

The lake never freezes, and forests line its banks. Freshwater lakes usually have no connections to the ocean, but Loch Ness is connected with the Atlantic Ocean by a canal.

The temperature of the lake is rather low, and its visibility depth is 5 meters.

Rumors of a monster living in the loch have persisted for several centuries. The earliest claim is taken from the Life of St Columba. It describes how in 565 AD, Columba saved the life of a Pict who was attacked by the monster.

The first modern sighting occurred on May 2, 1933. The newspaper *Inverness Courier* ran the story of the Mackay couple, who reportedly saw "an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface." The report of the "monster" became a media sensation with London papers sending reporters to Scotland and a circus offering a reward of 20,000 pounds for the capture of the monster.

Later that year, A H Palmer, who claims to have seen "Nessie" on August 11, 1933, at 7 am, described the creature as having its head set low in the water. Its mouth, which was 30 to 45 centimeters wide, was opening and closing.

In the 1970s, scientists carried out extensive investigations on the lake. Some videos and pictures taken under the lake showed a huge animal living in the lake. The team's capture efforts ended in failure.

Regardless of whether anything is actually in the loch, the Loch Ness Monster has had a significant impact on the local economy. Dozens of hotels, boating tour operators and merchants of stuffed animals and related trinkets owe part of their livelihood to the monster. The legend is likely to endure for quite some time.

The quiet B852 road along the south side of the lake is one of the best if you want to stop off on the lake side. There are no tourism facilities along this route.

You can also take the busy A82 through Drumnadrochit village. This is the tourist route. You can stop, but only at special designated places – all of which are high above the lake. They are good for wide panoramic pictures, and perhaps a distant view of the monster. This is the road to take for the "official" and "original" Loch Ness Monster exhibitions and Nessie information centers based at Drumnadrochit.

Getting there: The best way to tour Loch Ness is to drive yourself. Inverness is a city in northern Scotland, and is a convenient departure point when heading to the loch. Inverness Airport provides airlines to Scottish cities and also destinations around the UK. So you can fly to Inverness first and then, drive to Loch Ness.

(By Jackie Zhang)



No Country for Old Men (2007)

Scene1:

Bell's ranch

Loretta: I thought it was a car afire.

Bell: It is a car afire. But Wendell said there was something back country, too.

Loretta: When is the county gonna start paying a rental on my horse.

Bell: Hyah!

Bell: You wouldn't think a car would burn like that.

Wendell: Yes sir. We should bring wieners.

Bell: Does that look to you like about a '77 Ford, Wendell?

Wendell: It could be.

Bell: I'd say it is. Not a doubt in my mind.

Wendell: The old boy shot by the highway?

Bell: Yes sir, his vehicle. Man killed Lamar's deputy, took his car, killed someone on the highway, swapped⁽¹⁾ for his car, and now here it is and he's swapped again for God knows what.

Wendell: That's very linear, Sheriff⁽²⁾.

Bell: Well. Old age flattens⁽³⁾ a man.

Wendell: Yes, Sir. But then there's this other.

Scene2 :

Gas Station

Chigurh: What's the most you ever lost on a coin toss⁽⁴⁾.

Gas Station Proprietor: Sir?

Chigurh: The most. You ever lost. On a coin toss.

Gas Station Proprietor: I don't know. I couldn't say.

(Chigurh flips a quarter from the change on the counter and covers it with his hand)

Chigurh: Call it.

Gas Station Proprietor: Call it?

Chigurh: Yes.

Gas Station Proprietor: For what?

Chigurh: Just call it.

Gas Station Proprietor: Well, we

Synopsis

Acclaimed filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen deliver their most gripping and ambitious film yet in this sizzling and super-charged action-thriller, *No Country For Old Men*. When a man stumbles on to a bloody crime scene, a pickup truck loaded with heroin and two million dollars in irresistible cash, his decision to take the money sets off an unstoppable chain reaction of violence. Not even West Texas law can contain it. Based on the novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Cormac McCarthy, and featuring an acclaimed cast led by Tommy Lee Jones, this gritty game of cat and mouse will take you to the edge of your seat and beyond-right up to its heart-stopping final moment.



need to know what we're calling it for here.

Chigurh: You need to call it. I can't call it for you. It wouldn't be fair.

Gas Station Proprietor: I didn't put nothin' up.

Chigurh: Yes, you did. You've been putting it up your whole life, you just didn't know it. You know what date is on this coin?

Gas Station Proprietor: No.

Chigurh: 1958. It's been traveling twenty-two years to get here. And now it's here. And it's either heads or tails⁽⁵⁾ And you have to say. Call it.

Gas Station Proprietor: Look, I need to know what I stand to win.



Chigurh: Everything.

Gas Station Proprietor: How's that?

Chigurh: You stand to win everything. Call it.

Gas Station Proprietor: Alright. Heads then.

(Chigurh removes his hand, revealing the coin is indeed heads)

Chigurh: Well done.

Scene3:

Coffee Shop

Bell: Carla Jean, I thank you for coming in.

Carla Jean: Don't know why I did. I told you, I don't know where he is.

Bell: You ain't heard from him?

Carla Jean: No, I ain't.

Bell: Nothin'?

Carla Jean: Not word one.

Bell: Would you tell me if you had?

Carla Jean: Well, I don't know. He doesn't need any trouble from you.

Bell: It's not me he's in trouble with.

Carla Jean: Who's he in trouble with then?

Bell: Some pretty bad people.

Carla Jean: Llewelyn can take care of himself.

Bell: These people will kill him, Carla Jean. They won't quit.

Carla Jean: He won't neither.

He never has.

Bell: I wish I could say that was in his favor. But I have to say I don't think it is.

Carla Jean: He can take all comers.

Bell: You know Charlie Walser? Has the place east of Sanderson?

Well, you know how they used to slaughter beefs, hit them with a maul⁽⁶⁾ right here to stun them ... *(indicates between his own eyes)* and then truss them up⁽⁷⁾ and slit their throats? Well, here Charlie has one and all set to drain him and the beef comes to. It starts thrashing⁽⁸⁾ around, six hundred pounds of very pissed-off livestock if you'll pardon my ... Charlie grabs his gun there to shoot the damn thing in the head but what with the swingin' and twistin', it's a glance-shot and ricochets⁽⁹⁾ around and comes back and hits Charlie in the shoulder. You go see Charlie, he still can't reach up with his right hand for his hat... Point bein', even in the contest between man and cow, the issue is not certain.

Bell: When Llewelyn calls, just tell him I can make him safe.

Scene4:

A Small Suburban House

Carla Jean: I knew this wasn't done with.

Movie of the Week

A minor but assured novel by one of our greatest living novelists, Cormac McCarthy's *No Country for Old Men* is perfect for a Coen screen adaptation: it's the sort of macabre genre-bender rife with crime, violence, and a kind of every man's ponderings that caters to Coens' greatest strengths as an absurdist chronicler of the American ethos. This movie won four Oscars at the 80th Academy Awards.

Chigurh: No.

Carla Jean: I ain't got the money.

Chigurh: No.

Carla Jean: What little I had is long gone and there's bills a-plenty to pay yet. I buried my mother today. I ain't paid for that neither.

Chigurh: I wouldn't worry about it.

Carla Jean: I need to sit down.

Carla Jean: You got no cause to hurt me.

Chigurh: No. But I gave my word⁽¹⁰⁾.

Carla Jean: You gave your word?

Chigurh: To your husband

Carla Jean: That don't make sense. You gave your word to my husband to kill me?

Chigurh: Your husband had the opportunity to remove you from harm's way. Instead, he used you to try to save himself.

Carla Jean: Not like that. Not like you say.

Chigurh: I don't say anything. Except it was foreseen.

Vocabulary

1 Swap: give something in exchange for something else.

2 Sheriff: an elected officer in the US responsible for making sure that people do not break the law.

3 Flatten : defeat somebody completely

4 Toss: to throw a coin to decide something according to which side lands face upwards

5 Tails: the side of a coin which does not have the head figure on it

6 Maul: (of animals) to hurt someone badly by tearing their flesh

7 Truss up: tie or bind something/somebody securely

8 Thrashing: violent, uncontrollable movement

9 Ricochet: to change direc-

tion when some object hits a surface at an angle.

10 Give one's word: promise to do something.

11 Fall into place: to become clear or enter one's consciousness or emotions

(By Li Jinjin)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If

you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Egg on his face

By He Jianwei

Last weekend, I had dinner with my classmates. Actually, the dinner was to be on February 21 to celebrate the Lantern Festival. We had to delay it, because one of my classmates, Robert Guo, who works as a project manager at an IT company, was busy working on a project plan.

We talked about our work and future life plans after grad-

uation. Some planned to marry and some would change jobs. When we asked Guo about his project plan, he said he had made five editions of the plan and, at long last, his boss was satisfied with it. "I felt at ease, when the plan laid an egg," Guo said.

"Laid an egg?" we asked in unison.

"I mean that my plan was adopted by my boss finally,"

he said.

We knew there was something wrong with his statement, but we did not know where the problem was.

We knew "lay" meant to produce when referring to a bird, hen or insect. For example, last week the hens laid 30 eggs, but this week the they are not laying.

Maybe Guo thought that hens made a production - eggs,

so when his plan was carried out, he likened it to a hen laying an egg.

After we went home, I received a short message from Guo. "I misused the phrase 'lay an egg.' It has an opposite meaning," he wrote.

In fact, "lay an egg" has a totally different meaning and means to fail in making people enjoy or be interested in some-

thing. For example, we can say, "Jim tried to tell a few jokes, but each time he forgot the punch line and laid an egg."

The expression just did not fit when Guo said his boss was satisfied with his plan and Guo said the plan had laid an egg, which actually means the plan failed.

Guo certainly ended up with egg on his face when he used the slang expression incorrectly.

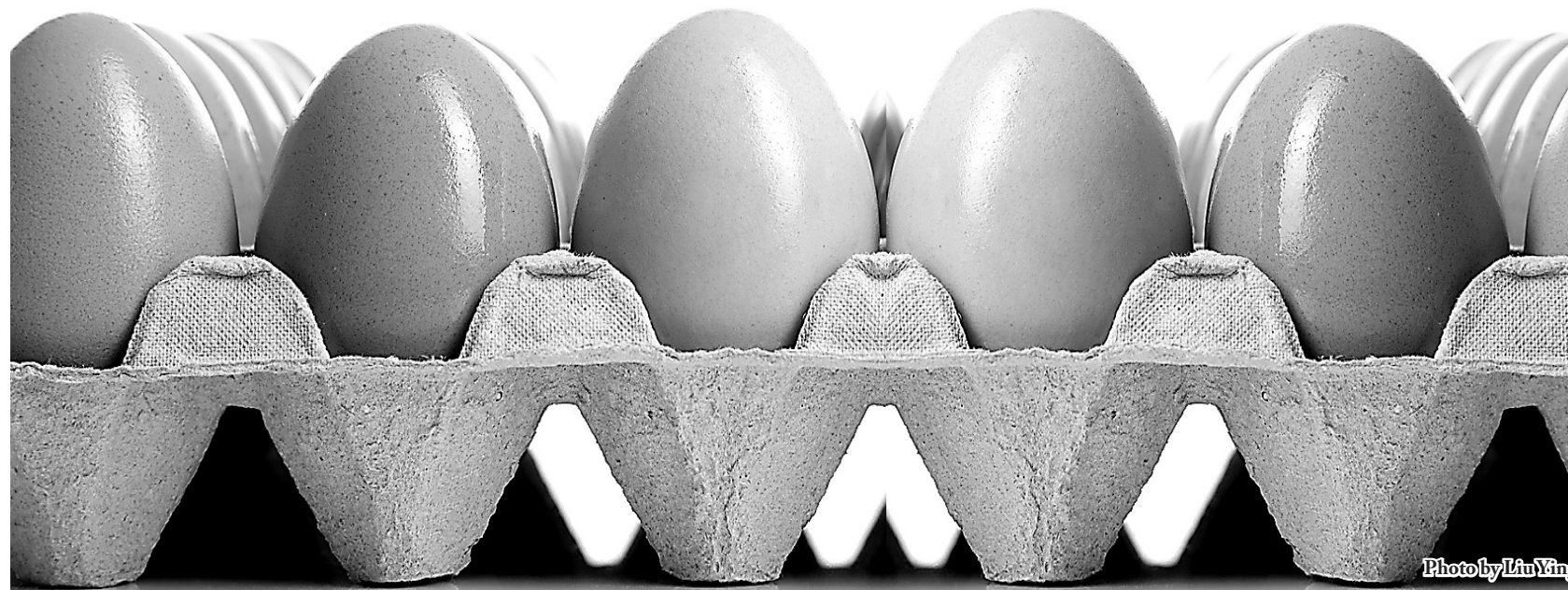


Photo by Liu Ying

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. The airport is ready to operation.

The idiomatic expression is, "to be ready to do something." So, the sentence should read, "The airport is ready to operate," or, "The airport is ready to begin operations."

2. The terminal building broke ground on March 28.

The building itself cannot break ground. Break ground means, to turn up soil with a plow or to begin building or to execute a plan or venture. So, it should be, "Work on the terminal building started on March 28."

3. There are 168 contracted hotels with 20 being five-star and 28 are four-star.

Grammatically this sentence is okay. But, rhetorically, it is not good. The idiomatic way of saying it should be, "There are 168 contracted hotels with 20 being five-star and 28, four-star."

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. The airport is ready to operation.

The way it sits on the tarmac now, this sentence structure will never fly! The word "operation" as a noun here, is a duck flying into this grammatical airplane's propeller! You must say, "The airport is ready to operate," or, "The airport is ready to begin operations." Good! Now, take off!

2. The terminal building broke ground on March 28.

In this sentence the terminal building is an inanimate object and cannot break ground, wind, a prom-

ise, into show business or anything else! Give us a break! To break ground means to start a new project. To rectify this grammatical problem, say, "Work on the terminal building started on March 28."

3. There are 168 contracted hotels with 20 being five-star and 28 are four-star.

As far as good grammar goes, this sentence does travel the distance but it can be presented in a better way. Try this... "There are 168 contracted hotels with 20 being five-star and 28, four-star." Now that's a 10-star sentence!



Where can I buy tickets?



By Derrick Sobodash

This sign bears an unbelievably botched translation. Its writers failed to correctly convey even the most basic part of its informa-

tion: where to purchase tickets.

The text reads, "Here you can get ticketsius the fore getting on bus."

Some spaces were obviously knocked out, but even with "get

ticketsius," it doesn't make much sense. Perhaps they were shooting for "Ticketsius" - that sounds like it should be the name of a Roman general.

"The fore" should probably be "before," and bus requires the definite article "the."

These changes get the sign to, "Here you can get tickets before getting on the bus."

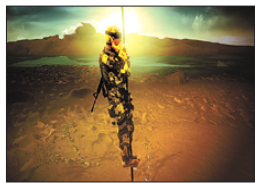
Unfortunately, the translation still has a serious problem - aside from that tickets are being sold

somewhere, it is entirely inaccurate. Use of the word "here" makes it sound like this sign is located at a ticket window, and "before" makes it sound like you must purchase a ticket before boarding. The sign actually says that tickets can be purchased on board the bus.

A short phrase like "Tickets available after boarding" would convey the message perfectly. "Tickets can be purchased after boarding" is a little longer, but also works just fine.

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

5 Friday, March 7

Exhibition
Unborn
Heroes Cenotaph Media Program

Let us imagine the figures that will influence the future; no matter how they will transform the era or usher in a new world. Let us witness the evolution of humankind and the world of beyond. However, the "unborn heroes" will finally lead us to unpredictable advances or perdition.

Where: BTAP, Jiuxian-qiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10:30 am – 5:30 pm, until March 22

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3245

Group Exhibition of Photographers

Where: Cloud & Sky Photo Image Gallery, C3006 Brewery Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 5:30 pm, until March 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 5202 3892

Different Perspectives – Group Exhibition

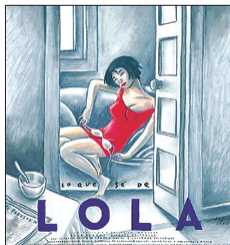
The exhibition features Han Qing, Chen Yufei, Lu Peng, Wang Yuping, Wang Lifeng and Zhou Jirong

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwen

When: Daily 10 am – 5 pm, until April 5

Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

Movie**Lo Que Sé de Lola**

This film is a French-Spanish production and most of the dialog is in French. *Lo Que Se de Lola* – in English, *What I know about Lola* – is about a lonely guy, living an uneventful life in Paris taking care of his mother. One day, a girl with a much more exciting life moves into his apartment building...

Where: Beijing Institute Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5879 9666

6 Saturday, March 8

Exhibition
Thoughts Flasher

This features works by Cheng Hai, Han Shihua, Tan Yongshi

Where: China Visual Arts Center, Zone D, 1 Art Area, Hegezhuang, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9:30 am – 6:30 pm, until April 1

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 6755

Spring New Work Show

For those artists in Song Zhuang, art has become an important part of their lives. As one artist said, "I really don't know what else I could do if I didn't paint." So even in this cold and long winter they still work in their studios, some of which don't even have a heating system. In this exhibition

you can see what they are thinking and exploring throughout the winter.

Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou

When: Daily 8 am – midnight, until March 31

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6959 8343

To Feel the Miracle of Oceans

Where: Fafa Gallery, 4 Yuyang Lu, Houshayu, Shunyi

When: Daily 10:30 am – 8 pm, until February 29

Admission: Free

Tel: 8430 2587

Movie**La Grande Séduction**

A small company wants to build a factory on the island, but only a fulltime doctor lives in St. Marie. The situation seems hopeless until a young doctor in Montreal has an unfortunate incident with a traffic cop and finds himself on a boat destined for the faraway village.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 3 pm



Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Upcoming

Concert**Rene Liu (Liu Ruoying) Beijing Live 2008 Concert**

Who: Rene Liu (Liu Ruoying)

Where: Capital Gymnasium, 54 Zhongguancun Nan Dajie, Haidian

When: 7:30 pm, March 8

Admission: 280-1,680 yuan

7 Sunday, March 9

Exhibition
Cang Xin's Mythology

By using the five basic elements that make up nature – metal, water, wood, fire and soil – Cang Xin injects his spiritual experience about human values and the universe into this explanation of contemporary art.

Where: F/2, F/3 and F/4 Beijing Today Art Museum, Building 4, 32 Baizhiwan Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 5 pm, until March 15

Admission: Free

Tel: 5876 9392

Lucky Rat Welcomes the Year of the Rat – Group Exhibition of Yu Ping & Ren Ping

The theme of Mr. and Mrs. Yu's works are often based on popular Chinese folklore and their stencil printing artworks are visual presentations of Chinese traditional culture and practices.

Where: Beijing Wan Fung Art Gallery, the Imperial Archives, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Mon-Fri 9 am – 5 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am – 5 pm, until March 10

Admission: Free

Tel: 6523 3320

Outward**Expressions, Inward Reflections**

"Outward Expressions, Inward Reflections" is an annual showcase of contemporary photography on China's new strengths. The exhibition takes as

its point of departure, an independent understanding of contemporary photography, selecting artists from the waves of emerging trends with individual spirits and artistic potential to introduce, via exhibition and publishing to audiences, contemporary photography's newest achievements in China.

Where: Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, 155 Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until April 13

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 2663 ext 8008

Movie**Fauteuils d'Orchestre**

A young woman arrives in Paris where she finds a job as a waitress in a bar next to Avenue Montaigne that caters to the surrounding theaters and the wealthy inhabitants of the area. She meets a pianist, a famous actress and a great art collector, and becomes acquainted with the "luxurious" world her grandmother has told her about since her childhood.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Stage in April

Concert**China Philharmonic Orchestra 2007-2008 Musical Festival**

Who: Conducted by Long Yu

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

April 6

Admission: 80-880 yuan

China Philharmonic Orchestra 2007-2008 Musical Festival

Who: Conducted by Bramwell Tovey

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm,

April 19

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Jolin Tsai Dancing**Forever Beijing Concert**

Who: Jolin Tsai

Where: Beijing Workers Gymnasium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

April 4-5

Admission: 280-1,680 yuan

James Blunt**Beijing Concert**

Who: James Blunt

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo Building, Yonghegongqiao Bei, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

April 18

Admission: 380-780 yuan

Celine Dion's Taking**Chances World Tour**

Who: Celine Dion

Where: Beijing Workers Gymnasium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

April 13

Admission: 300-3,000 yuan

Drama**Hamlet**

Who: British TNT Theater

Where: PKU Centennial Memorial Hall, 116 Zhongguancun Bei Dajie, Haidian

When: 7 pm,

April 18-20

Admission: 20-150 yuan

Like Shadows

Who: directed by Lai Shengchuan

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

April 4-5

Admission: 100-680 yuan

King

Who: Theater National de Toulouse

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm,

April 3-6

Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

(By Li Jing)